

School called on to alter intake policy after move

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Half of Turing House School's intake should be children from Whittton, according to councillors for the ward.

Consultation is open for the school, which is expected to move from its temporary home in Teddington's Livingston House to Hospital Bridge Road in Whittton in two-and-a-half years.

The vast majority of the school places would remain for children from Teddington, rather than from its new Whittton home, with an expected split of 80:20.

Councillor Grant Healy, who represents Whittton, said he and fellow Conservative Councillor Gareth Elliot believed it should be open to as many children from the area as possible.

Coun Healy said: "We are looking for that ratio to change to 50:50."

He added: "I have spoken to [headteacher] Colin Mackinlay and the chair of governors and they have said if the consultation is over-



Debate: Council members are calling for Turing House School to accept an equal proportion of pupils from Whittton when its planned move is completed

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whelmingly for a change in the ratio then they would look at that.

"So I am encouraging everybody I can to engage in this consultation process."

The school's consultation page states it is considering increasing its published

admissions number (PAN) from 150 to 200 the year it moves to its permanent site, which Coun Healy said he was against.

Liberal Democrat councillor for Whittton Liz Jaeger agreed increasing the PAN would be problematic.

She said: "Increasing the admissions from 150 to 200 a year will add to the problems of traffic, congestion and so on."

She was also critical of the proposed site in Heathfield, and called for more transparency from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) with regard to its decision on where the school would be.

Coun Jaeger said: "While the proposed site in Heathfield may only be two miles from the admissions point, there are other sites, such as the land near the David Lloyd centre [Hampton] that would serve better.

"And why couldn't Udney Park [in Teddington] be secured?"

Coun Healy said though he was sympathetic to the many who were disappointed the Metropolitan Open Land could be built on for the school, it was up to Hounslow Council to decide whether to sell it to the EFA, though he was not sure a deal had been completely established.

The Department for Education said it was not an issue it wished to comment on.



Tough test: Reporter George Odling in the grip of wrestling academy head Al Snow

Deadlinepix KT94710

Training for superstars

Exams to get into New Malden's toughest new school are being held at the beginning of next month.

The Al Snow Wrestling Academy, set up by the infamous American sports entertainer, will be testing potential pupils at Fightzone London on February 6 and 7.

"Head" Mr Snow said the school will be "harder to get into than Harvard" at the launch in Hampton Court earlier this month.

Teacher John "Bad Bones"

Klinger said: "You want to be a superstar? Are you tough enough?"

"Come to the try outs and show us how much dedication, passion and motivation you have."

The school, based in a secret New Malden location, plans to welcome its first students in March.

To secure a place at the try outs, email your name, date of birth and contact number to wolf@alsnowwrestling.com.

Mother's Day dancing

Young ballerinas from Russia will be part of a performance of Dido and Aeneas in Twickenham for Mother's Day.

The performance is part of Richmond's annual music and drama festival and features soprano Emily Kirby-

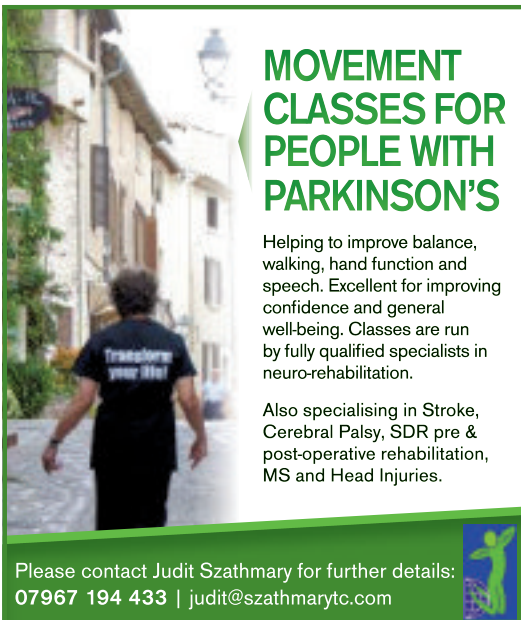
Ashmore as Dido and baritone Ian Helm as Aeneas.

Tickets for the show, in Waldegrave Drawing Room at St Mary's University on Sunday, March 6, cost £20 for adults, concessions £12, from <http://bit.ly/1KcWZ4i>. Those under five years old go free.

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Play park in preparation

Work will begin this month on a natural woodland play area and trim trail in Teddington and Fulwell.

The new play area was put to public consultation by Richmond Council and received 94 per cent support from the public.

The area has been designed by the parks team and will include a trim trail, climbing features and an outdoor classroom with educational play features.

It will be erected alongside a mixed martial arts (MMA) centre set to be built on former Territorial Army site in Stanley Road, by the Strawberry Hill Golf Course.

Richmond Council's cabinet member for environment, Councillor Pamela Fleming, said: "This



Campaign: Councillor Pamela Fleming

area of Fulwell and Teddington has been lacking in play opportunities so I'm sure it'll be well received by the community."

The Parks Improvement Programme 2012-2017 will continue to consult residents on improvements to parks and open spaces.

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