



School site? The Imperial College sports ground
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Battle cry from Cable

Twickenham MP Vince Cable is ready for the next challenger to his seat in next year's elections.

The Liberal Democrat has held the position as MP for Twickenham since 1997 and in that time has seen off a number of opponents.

His latest rival comes in the shape of Conservative Councillor Tania Mathias, who was chosen to stand by her party last year.

He said that, although he has respect for Dr Mathias, he has no worries over the security of his parliamentary seat.

He said: "I have met her a few times and she seems nice enough, but I do not consider her more of a threat than those I have seen off in the past.

"I start with a large majority of well over 10,000 as well."

The general election is scheduled to take place on May 7, 2015.



Fighting talk: Vince Cable

New school site secured?

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A new free school for Richmond is on the verge of securing a site in Teddington.

Richmond & Twickenham Times sources have confirmed the Imperial College London playing fields, in Udney Park Road, have been earmarked for purchase for Turing House School, although all parties are reluctant to come forward.

The free school, due to open in September this year, had previously missed out on another site at the

National Physical Laboratory (NPL), also based in Teddington.

A source said: "The site has not been given the go-ahead just yet, but it would be a surprise if it did not go ahead.

"Negotiations are in the last stages now and there are only a few sites available anyway.

"There will almost certainly be objections from neighbours on issues such as traffic, but, on the other hand, schools are needed."

Turing House's website said the co-educational secondary school would start offering places to potential



Site: The ground's entrance

pupils on Friday, February 28.

The school missed out on its preferred site at the NPL in May, but the building was included as part of

a £25m redevelopment of the laboratory.

The acquirement of a site is handled by the Education Funding Agency (EFA), a body of the Department for Education (DfE), who said a site had yet to be secured.

A Richmond Council spokesman said: "Responsibility for finding sites for free schools rests with the EFA, who we understand have not yet acquired a site for Turing House and are therefore considering a number of potential sites.

"As and when they do acquire a site and submit a planning application, they will be required to adhere

to the council's planning procedure."

However, sources said the EFA was on the brink of securing the playing fields in Udney Park Road.

But an Imperial College spokesman said: "Imperial has not entered into any deal of this kind, nor is it about to."

The DfE approved the bid for Turing House School submitted by a group of parents and charity the Russell Education Trust on May 22.

The school, that will focus on science, engineering and music, appointed Colin Mckinlay as headmaster in September.

Fine dished out to man found carrying drugs

A man found with eight bags of cannabis in Twickenham has been fined £100.

Dean Tubbritt, 35, of Arnhem

Drive, New Addington, admitted he had bags of class B drugs on him near Twickenham stadium on January 20.

He was ordered to pay £85 in court costs and a £15 victim surcharge. The drugs were confiscated and destroyed.

Shut that door and save money

Environmentally-minded businesses have joined a campaign to save money and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Some 71 businesses have so far signed up to Richmond Council's Close the Door scheme, which cuts carbon dioxide levels simply by closing a door.

The council launched the campaign as part of its go green sustainability programme, as it said shops and restaurants lost 50 per cent of their heating through open doors.

Cabinet member for environment Councillor Pamela Fleming said: "It may sound simple, but closing doors can reduce a shop's CO₂ emissions by up to 10 tonnes each year.

"This is the equivalent of three return trips between London and Hong Kong."

Businesses taking part received free window stickers that they have placed in shop doors to encourage residents and customers to play their part.

For more information, visit richmond.gov.uk/gogreen.