



Meet us at our 'Drop in' sessions

3-5pm Tuesday 26th March 2013 and

6-8pm on Thursday 4th April 2013

in the Powell Suite at the
Chalkhill Community Centre,

113 Chalkhill Rd, Wembley,

Greater London, HA9 9FX



MICHAELA
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Where tradition and innovation meet

**Consultation on the opening of the
proposed Michaela Community School**

Consultation Period

11th March - 22nd April 2013

Welcome

Michaela Community School will be a mixed community secondary school for pupils aged 11-18, offering an elite, traditional education for pupils of all backgrounds. The School proposes to open in Brent in September 2014 in Arena House, North End Road, Wembley, London, HA9 0AD. The site is currently being extensively refurbished and updated to meet the needs of a new 840 place school.

We believe that an elite education based upon traditional values should be within the reach of every child, regardless of their background. Michaela Community School will bring the values and advantages of a private school education to young people in Brent by providing a highly academic curriculum and strong discipline.

The school is named after Michaela, an inspirational teacher whose traditional values ensured her pupils achieved great success. She sadly died of terminal illness in 2011 but her commitment to tradition, discipline and providing pupils with confidence and ambition will live on through Michaela Community School.

The curriculum will prioritise traditional subjects. Mastering English and Maths to a high standard will form the basis of learning at the school for every pupil. High-achieving pupils will be stretched and those who are struggling will be given extra tuition in English and Maths as part of an extended day. The academic rigour at the school will offer all pupils the opportunity to progress to the very best universities in the country including Russell Group universities like Oxford and Cambridge. Those who do not go to university will still have high levels of numeracy, reading, writing and spoken English.

We want everyone in the community to get involved and have their say on the proposed school. We need your input and support to make the school a success. Please take the time to read this leaflet and complete the questionnaire. You can also register your interest in a place at the school by returning the tear off Freepost questionnaire. You can also email us at consultation@mcsbrent.co.uk or leave a message on the message line on 0845 257 5070 and we will include your comments.

Katharine Birbalsingh and Michaela Community School Steering Group

Curriculum

Every pupil at Michaela Community School will be equipped to achieve their very best in traditional subjects. Our pupils will develop a love of learning and a sense of creativity that will sustain them throughout their lives.

Pupils will become knowledgeable about the world so that they are able to become the next leaders, thinkers and innovators. In every subject, pupils will be taught the background and surrounding knowledge and historical context of what they are learning so they can link knowledge from different subjects together. This will enable them to become independent thinkers with a love of learning and knowledge.

In their first three years at the school, during Key Stage Three, pupils will focus on the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, French, Spanish, Music and Art. ICT will be a vital part of the curriculum and will run through the teaching of each subject.

At Key Stage Four, pupils will study English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, History, Geography and French or Spanish. These will be compulsory for most pupils as part of our aim to provide excellent grounding in academic subjects before they go on to study further subjects. We will expect the vast majority of pupils to gain good passes across subjects.

The school day will be longer than normal and this extended day will include competitive sport, help with university applications, Latin, Mandarin, business and personal financial skills and social and cultural education.





Educational Vision

Michaela Community School will strive to give all pupils the confidence, self-discipline and academic ability to pursue their ambitions.

We will set high standards of behaviour and academic achievement for all of our pupils. Self-discipline and a willingness to work hard will be expected of everyone at Michaela Community School.

Michaela Community School will be a school where parents are encouraged to take an active involvement in every stage of their child's education. Pupils themselves will have a voice in the school and develop their skills as leaders. As such they will grow in confidence and gain vital skills for future success.

The principles of discipline and hard work will run through the school. Pupils will appreciate that success needs hard work. Our teachers will also work hard to support anyone who is struggling to keep up. We believe in competition. We want each pupil to know how well others are achieving academically. It encourages pupils to work harder and set goals.

We believe that children need more tradition – both in terms of study but also discipline. We expect children to respect adults and be polite to them at all times. They will show pride in their uniform and appearance and obey the rules of the school.

Admissions

Michaela Community School will admit 120 pupils in each year group. We will comply with the School Admissions Code, and admissions law as it applies to maintained schools. Priority will be given to children with Special Educational Needs statements and those in care.

In the event of being oversubscribed we will admit pupils according to a fair banding lottery system. Applicants will be asked to take an externally marked cognitive ability test and grouped into one of five bands of the same size according to their score (so 1/5 of applicants with the highest scores will be in the one band, 1/5 of applicants with the next highest scores will be in the next band and so on, with the 1/5 recording the lowest score in the final band.)

An equal number of pupils will be admitted from each band in the following priority order:

- 1) Applicants looked after by the Local Authority
- 2) Applicants with siblings currently attending the school
- 3) Applicants living within five miles of the school - with a lottery to select those admitted if this includes more applicants than places available in each band
- 4) Other applicants prioritised by distance between the school and their home.

This fair banding system will ensure that Michaela Community School is a truly comprehensive school which serves the local area with an intake balanced across the ability spectrum.

An independent appeals panel will consider any appeals.

You can register your interest using the questionnaire which is part of this booklet and we will contact you with more information.

Free Schools
PO Box 68796
London
SE1P 4QA

Message line: 0845 257 5070

www.mcsbrent.co.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Free School?

A Free School is independently run and has the freedom to set its own curriculum and policies. Free Schools are free to attend.

Will Free Schools be able to make a profit?

No. Free Schools can only be set up and owned by charities. The school will be run by the Head and their leadership team and they, in return, will be answerable to the Board of Governors.

Why are you establishing the School on the site of Arena House in Brent?

The site was identified by the Education Funding Agency as an ideal location for a school. This site will be refurbished to make it ready for its new role. The London Borough of Brent has a shortfall of secondary school places in 2015 and beyond.

Are Free Schools selective?

No – we will be bound by the same admissions rules as the other schools in Brent.

If the Michaela Community School opens in Brent will that mean less money for the other schools in the borough?

No. Free Schools are funded by central government.

Will Michaela Community School be inspected by Ofsted?

Yes.

Have you chosen a Head for Michaela Community School?

Katharine Birbalsingh will be the Headmistress of the school. Her vision has been central to bringing the steering group's plans to fruition and she will lead the school into its first year of opening and beyond.

How will the school be accountable?

The school will be run by a Board of Governors which is accountable to the charitable trust which oversees the school. In addition the school will also be accountable to the Department for Education through the terms of its funding agreement.

How can I apply for a place?

Details can be found on the School's website www.mcsbrent.co.uk

How can I give my views?

You can fill out this form with any questions you might have and return it by post, or complete it on-line at www.mcsbrent.co.uk/consultation

You can also record any further comments and ask any questions by emailing consultation@mcsbrent.co.uk or by telephoning our consultation line on 0845 257 5070

Questionnaire

Please make sure you return this questionnaire using the Freepost address on the back. Please follow the instructions around the side of this page. Your questionnaire must be received by Monday 22nd April 2013. Alternatively, you can fill out the questionnaire online at www.mcsbrent.co.uk

1. Do you support the proposal to open a new secondary school in Brent to provide more choice for parents?

Yes No Don't Know *Please let us know your reasons* _____

2. Do you support the knowledge-based curriculum proposed for MCS?

Yes No Don't Know *Please let us know your reasons* _____

3. Do you support the school's focus on traditional academic subjects and its aim to give all pupils high levels of skill in reading, writing, numeracy and speaking English?

Yes No Don't Know *Please let us know your reasons* _____

4. Do you support the school's ethos of encouraging hard work, competition and discipline?

Yes No Don't Know *Please let us know your reasons* _____

5. Do you agree that Michaela Community School should open in September 2014, which would involve Michaela Community School Trust entering into a Funding Agreement* with the Secretary of State for Education?

Yes No Don't Know *Please let us know your reasons* _____

6. Do you have any additional comments? _____

Register your interest in a place

Would you like to register your interest in a place for your child and to keep up to date on how the school opening is progressing? If yes, please supply your contact details below:

Your name: _____ Name of your child: _____

Child's date of birth: _____ Current school year: _____

Current school: _____

Home address: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

* There is a link to a Free School model Funding Agreement on our website. We anticipate that there may be some changes to this model to reflect the unique nature of the proposed school. Any changes made to the model will be published on our website in due course.

Your details (*please tick all boxes that apply to you*).

I am:

Parent/carer of primary age child(ren)

Please specify your child(ren) school(s): _____

Parent/carer of secondary age child(ren)

Please specify your child(ren) school(s): _____

Representative of a community or youth group

Please say which one: _____

A member of staff at a school

Please say which one: _____

A local resident

A local employee

A local employer/business owner

Other (please specify) _____

Please complete and return this Questionnaire:

- via email at consultation@mcsbrent.co.uk
- online at www.mcsbrent.co.uk/consultation
- or by post to: Free Schools, PO Box 68796, London SE1P 4QA

For further information please visit www.mcsbrent.co.uk
Alternatively you can email us at consultation@mcsbrent.co.uk