



# Newsletter

## News and Views from Campaign for State Education – South East London

Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of CASE – South East London. If you would like to share news or subscribe (unsubscribe) to the Newsletter, please e-mail: [CASE-SEL@outlook.com](mailto:CASE-SEL@outlook.com). Information will be published anonymously, unless you give permission for your name to be used. For information about CASE and the author, please see the last page.

### News from Parliament

#### Education, Selection, Funding and Testing

##### More Grammar Schools and new Bribes

The Prime Minister, Theresa May, keeps the focus on education following new proposals to allow more Grammar Schools to be built, arguing (against the evidence) that selection by academic ability is a good thing. This seems like a desperate measure to create capacity for more academy sponsors as universities are told that they can only charge more than £6300 tuition fees if they sponsor a grammar school. Independent schools are told that to keep their charity status they must support local schools.

The move to create more grammar schools has been strongly opposed by academics, unions, Labour, the Lib Dems, prominent members of the Conservative party and Sir Michael Wilshaw, the Head of Ofsted.

The Commons Education Select Committee will quiz Schools Minister Nick Gibb MP on the evidence behind the government's plans to expand the number of grammar schools and extend selective education in England, on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

##### Fairer Funding

Justine Greening, the Education Secretary of State has delayed the Fairer Funding proposal to 2018/19 to allow more consultation. London MPs urged the Secretary of State to level up funding, rather than cutting the funding of London schools. Justine Greening should focus on fixing what is broken in education – funding, teacher training, teacher retention and recruitment, teacher workload, and failing academy schools.

##### Primary Assessment

Justine Greening says she is listening to teachers and MPs concerns about primary school testing, but says she doesn't want the amount of testing reduced. She will be launching a consultation about the future of primary assessment.

calling for primary testing to be suspended.  
<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/613>

The National Association of Headteachers (NAHT) started its indicative ballot of members on boycotting next years SATS tests.

Green Party co-leader Caroline Lucas has submitted an early day motion on SATS in primary schools,

**Let your MP know what you think of government education plans and policies**

**Conservative Manifesto:** *"We will continue to allow all good schools to expand, whether they are maintained schools, academies, free schools or grammar schools."*

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## The Regional School Commissioner

Regional School Commissioners (**RSC**) gained powers on 18<sup>th</sup> April to issue Academy Orders to local authority (**LA**) maintained schools, if the schools are inadequate or otherwise “Causing Concern” or, from Autumn, if a school falls into the “Coasting” definition.

Note that the requirement to consult parents in relation to forced academisation was removed under the Education & Adoption Act 2016, and replaced with

a requirement for the Sponsor to communicate its improvement plans to parents.

In a conversation with the RSC in summer, I was told that I should treat the word “communicate” as being the same as “consult”. Any English teachers care to comment?

## Commons Select Committee Inquiry into Multi Academy Trusts

The Education Select Committee is a parliamentary committee chaired by Neil Carmichael MP. The Select Committee launched an inquiry into Multi Academy Trusts (**MATs**) on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

Three parents from Lewisham have separately submitted written evidence, which have been published. I wrote about my experience waiting for our local school to be converted into an academy, against the wishes of so many. We are parents with no voice.....or are we?

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/education-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/multi-academy-trusts-15-16/>

We also attended a workshop arranged by the Commons Education Select Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to hear the views of parents on multi academy trusts. The meeting was chaired by Ian Mearns MP (Labour: Gateshead). The Select Committee expects to publish its report by the end of the year.

You can view the written submission using this link.

## 2016 SATs Results

The Department for Education has said that it will cap the number of schools that can be below the floor standard at one percentage point more than last year, when 5 per cent – 676 primary schools – did not reach the floor. Primary School performance data will be published in December, and the “Coasting” definition will also come into play – another way for the Regional School Commissioner to take LA maintained schools.

## Other News (beyond parliament, but close by)

The **NUT** is holding a *Every Child deserves the best – Invest – don't cut* **march and rally** on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November, meeting at 5pm in Whitehall, opposite Downing Street. The Rally will be at 6:30pm in the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street. Speakers include Jeremy Corbyn and Kevin Courtney.

**CASE** is holding its AGM on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November in Mander Hall, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place WC1H 9BD, after the Reclaiming Education conference. See CASE website for more details. Non CASE members welcome too.

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## Local Education News

### Lewisham Education Commission & Report

In December 2015, the Mayor of Lewisham approved the appointment of an Education Commission, headed by Christine Gilbert, to provide the council with views on how to improve the performance of its secondary schools. The report was published in April and made public at the beginning of June.

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s43917/04Lewisham%20Education%20Commission%20Report.pdf>

The CYP Select Committee reviewed progress against the recommendations made in the Report on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The full report can be found here:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s45763/05EducationCommissionActionPlanCYP121016.pdf>

Key points:

- No schools are currently consulting on forming a M.A.T.
- Borough-wide School Improvement Partnership established and Partnership Steering Group established between school heads, Lewisham Governors Association and LA
- New 5 year place planning strategy document to be completed for public consultation in November/December
- the secondary challenge', a collaborative commitment to improve outcomes and progress across the sector, will launch early November with prospectus and detailed action plan

**Key Question: Where is the engagement with parents, especially parents of children at schools that do not have parent governors?**

### Our Schools

#### Sedgehill School

Parents are still wondering what is going to happen to our school. It seems it is not an easy task finding a Sponsor that has experience in running a large,

1. The academy order has not been deferred, but is part of a longer process to convert a school to an academy. In complex cases like Sedgehill, it is not always possible to name the sponsor the same time that the order is made. It often takes longer to find the right, sustainable solution, and a sponsor will be named at a later date.

complex secondary school with a budget deficit and PFI debt. Parents are grateful to the teachers that have remained at the school teaching our children. The project lead at the RSC provided this advice in summer.

2. The wider range of issues and complicated factors identified at Sedgehill include those concerns identified in the school's latest Ofsted report, its financial position, and the need to find a sponsor who has experience of private finance initiatives, through which the school was built.

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3. In general terms, decisions to put in place any proposed changes at Sedgehill after it has become an academy (including changes to the school uniform) are taken by the sponsor. Prior to any changes being implemented, we expect the incoming sponsor to engage with the community and parents in deciding how to take the school forward. Further information on school uniform policy can be found in [this guidance](#).

4. While there is no longer a requirement for a statutory consultation, we expect sponsors to work with the pupils, teachers and parents in communicating their plans for the academy prior to conversion. While most sponsors will have a communication strategy in place to engage the community, the method by which it is delivered will vary depending on the sponsor and therefore the department cannot say how this will look until the sponsor has been formally announced. As discussed during our call, we would encourage you to share your views with the incoming sponsor once this is confirmed.

5. To give you an idea of the process, [this guidance](#) sets out key dates that schools work towards (depending on their proposed opening date) when converting as a standalone academy or joining a multi academy trust. The timetables for a sponsored academy will vary depending on the complexities that arise during the project delivery process.

In some cases, some time is needed for the trust, local authority and school to consider how responsibilities will be transferred to the academy trust. [Section 4 of the guide for schools converting to become academies](#) provides guidance and key documents to consider on transferring responsibilities.

#### St Matthews Academy

The Ofsted report was finally published in October, following the June inspection. Not only has the school been rated Inadequate, but it also has a substantial deficit to deal with, which is the drive behind some of the changes being imposed by the new leadership

team. The Ofsted report stated that the nursery has been closed, even though the consultation with stakeholders hasn't closed. Parents look forward to being consulted on changes, as per the recommendation in the Ofsted report.

#### Heidi Alexander MP Asks Questions

1. To ask the Secretary of State for Education, (a) on how many occasions and (b) in relation to which schools since 2010 an Academy Order has been rescinded due to the inability of the Regional Schools Commissioner to secure a sponsor.
2. To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the average period of time was between an Academy Order being issued and a sponsor being named for schools in each year since 2010.
3. To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidelines her Department has issued on the time to be taken by a Regional Schools Commissioner to name a sponsor for a school that has been issued with an Academy Order.

Edward Timpson replied and narrowed his response to events since the Education and Adoption Act 2016. Heidi will follow up to get obtain answers to the questions asked.

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Lewisham Education Partnership Code

As the school landscape is set to change, with more academies and free schools, I think it is Imperative that an Education Partnership Code is written applying to all education stakeholders to set out at high level the interaction, ethics and values amongst and

between all education stakeholders to ensure all stakeholders are recognized and valued in the education chain. We value transparency and accountability and wish all of our schools to work together, regardless of structure, for the benefit of our children

Lewisham Schools Ofsted Inspections & Reports

*Congratulations to the primary schools that maintained good ratings or improved their ratings. Source: Ofsted.*

Month Published	School	Previous Rating	New Rating
April 2016	Kender Primary School	Good	Good
May 2016	Deptford Green	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement
May 2016	Sedgehill	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
June 2016 (insp)	St Matthews Academy	Good	Inadequate
July 2016	Dowderry Primary School	Good	Outstanding
September 2016	Adamsrill Primary School	Requires Improvement	Good
September 2016	Marvels Lane Primary School	Requires Improvement	Good
September 2016	St Mary's Lewisham Church of England Primary School	Requires Improvement	Good
September 2016	Consiborough College	Good	Requires Improvement
October 2016	Good Shepherd RC School	Good	Good

Lewisham 2016 GCSE Results

*But more work needed in our secondary schools*

SCHOOL NAME	Progress 8	Performance 5 GCSEEM
Addey and Stanhope School	Below average	60%
Bonus Pastor Catholic College	Above average	70%
Conisborough College	Below average	51%
Deptford Green School	Close to national average	66%
Forest Hill School	Below average	43%
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	Above average	70%
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	Below average	51%
Prendergast - Ladywell Fields College	Below average	43%
Prendergast - Vale College	Above average	58%
Prendergast-Hilly Fields College	Above average	67%
St Matthew Academy	Above average	58%
Sedgehill School	well below average	42%
Sydenham School	above average	72%
Trinity Church of England School, Lewisham	Below average	58%

Source: DfE Performance Data. Note that the GCSE measurement is English & Maths only.

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Lewisham Borough-wide Parent Education Network Group - ENGage

Heidi Alexander MP has agreed in principle to support and host a borough-wide meeting of education stakeholders, primarily focussed at creating a strong, constructive voice for parents. The meeting will focus on supporting all Lewisham schools. Christine Gilbert, Cllr Paul Maslin, and Sara Williams have indicated their support.

The event will require careful co-ordination and promotion, and parents have offered to help with the logistics with support from Heidi's office. Heidi will also be discussing this with the other Lewisham MPs. Parents want a formal voice in relation to education and our schools. – we want a seat at the table.

Welcome CASE Greenwich – Press Release Issued by John Galloway

“A packed meeting of parents, teachers, governors, heads and councilors at Charlton House on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October heard a range of speakers championing our local schools and questioning the impact government policies are having on them.

Speakers included Des Malone, the recently retired head of the popular John Roan School, and Chris Dunne from the Campaign for State Education, along with Miranda Williams, the cabinet member for children and young people in Greenwich, and Professor Kathryn Riley from UCL. All were agreed that we have good local schools that work best as a family. There was also agreement that the re-introduction of grammar schools will do nothing to raise standards locally. Miranda Williams spoke about the impressive results Greenwich schools have achieved through working with the local authority, and Des Malone about what makes a good school.

Chris Dunne pointed out that the UK already has some of the best schools in the world according to the international measures in the PISA tables. We are second only to Finland in Europe, and sixth overall in the world – figures we should be applauding rather than criticizing our schools and teachers.

The meeting concluded by agreeing to establish a local branch of the Campaign for State Education <http://www.campaignforstateeducation.org.uk/> to keep people in Greenwich and across South-East London informed about changes and to support schools, staff and governors at this time of disruption.”

Other Boroughs Schools Ofsted Inspections and Reports Source: Ofsted

Month Published	School	LA	Previous Rating	New Rating
Sep-16	St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary	Bexley	Requires Improvement	Good
Sep-16	Belvedere Infant School	Bexley	Requires Improvement	Good
Sep-16	Gray's Farm Primary Academy	Bromley	Inadequate	Good
Sep-16	Hillside Primary School	Bromley	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement
Sep-16	Southborough Primary School	Bromley	Requires Improvement	Good
Oct-16	St Paul's Cray Church of England Primary School	Bromley	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement
Jul-16	Gilbert Scott Primary School	Croydon	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement
Jul-16	Woodside Primary School and Children's Centre	Croydon	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement
Sep-16	All Saints CofE Primary School	Croydon	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement
Sep-16	Aerodrome Primary Academy	Croydon	Academy Conversion	Good
Oct-16	Kingsley Primary School	Croydon	Good	Inadequate
Jul-16	Alderwood Primary School	Greenwich	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement
Sep-16	Wingfield Primary School	Greenwich	Requires Improvement	Good

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Sep-16	Woodhill Primary School	Greenwich	Requires Improvement	Good
Oct-16	Thorntree Primary School	Greenwich	Good	Good
Jul-16	City of London Academy	Southwark	Good	Good
Jul-16	St George's Church of England Primary School	Southwark	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement
Sep-16	English Martyrs Roman Catholic Primary School	Southwark	Requires Improvement	Good

## Academy Watch

### OECD Top Education Expert says Grammar Schools are not the answer to the solution to the problem

The OECD's top education expert, Andreas Schleicher, has suggested that the UK government is "dramatically over-playing" the capacity for [grammar schools](#) to drive up academic standards and improve social mobility. Mr Schleicher warned that introducing more academic selection was not the answer. Instead, he urged the UK to invest instead in high-quality teaching across the system.

### Failing academies are not being helped to improve fast enough in England by the government officials overseeing them, the Commons Education Select Committee of MPs has heard.

Just 84 of the 277 academies rated as inadequate between 2010 and 2015, had been found new academy sponsors, the Commons Education Committee heard. The government says failing academies face swifter action than struggling schools linked to local authorities, but the statistics suggest otherwise.

In response to the South West Regional School Commissioner statement that "Five to 10 to 15 years from now, we should have a system where we can catch schools before they go into decline," Ian Mearns MP (Labour: Gateshead) responded, "The children in the schools we are talking about have not got five, 10, 15 years, they need the school that they are in improved around them now, and they need someone overseeing improvement and doing it very quickly."

### Underperforming MATs

These **MATs** are not considered by the Ofsted Head, Sir Michael Wilshaw to be performing well enough. Between them they are responsible for educating thousands of children.

- [School Partnership Trust Academies \(SPTA\)](#)
- [E-ACT](#)
- [AET](#)
- [The Education Fellowship](#)
- [Wakefield City Academies Trust](#)
- [CfBT Multi-Academy Trust](#)
- [Collaborative Academies Trust,](#)
- [Oasis Learning Multi-Academy Trust](#)

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The **Education Policy Institute** published a report in July 2016 ‘School performance in multi-academy trusts and local authorities – 2015’ and considers whether academisation raises standards and whether the Government’s current approach is working.

It is the first comprehensive analysis of school performance in multi-academy trusts (MATs) and local authorities (LAs). The analysis means for the first time it is possible to compare objectively and simply the performance of MATs and LAs, at both the primary and secondary level. The Report uses two measures of effectiveness – the first considers how well a school has improved over time and the second considers its overall performance, taking into account the starting point of its pupils. The tables below show the highest and lowest performing academy trusts and local authorities at secondary and primary school level. See tables below.

Highest performing secondary academy trusts and local authorities		
1	Inspiration	Academy Trust
2	Barnet	LA
3	Merton	LA
4	Southwark	LA
5	Outwood Grange	Academy Trust
6	Hackney	LA
7	Kent Catholic Schools Partnership	Academy Trust
8	Wokingham	LA
9	Surrey	LA
10	Peterborough	LA
Lowest performing secondary academy trusts and local authorities		
165	Salford	LA
165	Stoke on Trent	LA
165	Newcastle upon Tyne	LA
165	Woodard	Academy Trust
165	Wolverhampton	LA
165	Greenwood	Academy Trust
165	Oldham	LA
165	Nottingham	LA
165	Knowsley	LA
165	College Academies Trust	Academy Trust

Top performing primary academy trusts and local authorities		
1	Harris Federation	Academy Trust
2	First Federation Trust	Academy Trust
3	Redcar and Cleveland	LA
4	Kensington and Chelsea	LA
5	<b>Greenwich</b>	LA
5	Camden	LA
5	Newham	LA
5	CFBT Schools Trust	Academy Trust
6	Hounslow	LA
7	Waltham Forest	LA
8	Darlington	LA
9	LEAD	Academy Trust
10	Reach2	Academy Trust
Lowest performing primary academy trusts and local authorities		
212	Discovery	Academy Trust
212	Walsall	LA
212	Diocese of Leicester	Academy Trust
212	Diocese of Norwich	Academy Trust
216	Rutland	LA
217	Poole	LA
218	Education Fellowship Trust	Academy Trust

**What is CASE?**

The Campaign for State Education has been a grass-roots, non-party political organisation since the 1960s. We believe that a good education is the right of all citizens and that this is best achieved through a comprehensive education system. We oppose segregation by '11-plus' or through covert means of selection.

**What are we trying to achieve?**

A properly funded, non-selective and locally democratically accountable school system that allows every child and young person to achieve their full potential. Visit the website: [www.campaignforstateeducation.org.uk](http://www.campaignforstateeducation.org.uk)

**About the Author**

My name is Nicky Dixon, and I live in Lewisham with my family. My children attend Lewisham schools. I joined CASE NEC in September 2015 as I wanted to be part of a campaign group trying to protect our national education system.

I decided to create this Newsletter to share information with parents and other stakeholders about government plans and news of our schools.

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