



Newsletter

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

Welcome to the 5th 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. 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.

Let's Celebrate Our Schools

Sedgehill School

A sponsor has not been found, so it remains “business as usual” for the school and the senior leadership team are seeking further assistance from Lewisham to secure rapid improvement.

Mrs Scannell has welcomed the idea of parents holding coffee mornings in the school, so I shall progress this in the New Year.

St Matthews Academy

Parents have done a great job in bringing the community and school together with a MacMillan coffee morning that raised more than £600, a wonderful Remembrance Service with members of Age Exchange invited, ending with white and red balloons being released. The connection with Age

Exchange has resulted in members of Age Exchange volunteering to help and provide literacy support in secondary. The Christmas raffle and Grotto organised by parents brought working relationship with Dunelm and other local businesses.

St John the Baptist CE Primary School

Y5 pupils put into practice what they had learned of the Victorians by turning their classroom into a Victorian classroom, watched by parents. Dressed the part, the children role played a Victorian class, reciting times tables, writing on slate with chalk, prayers and a

drill in the playground. The teacher walked between rows of tables waving her cane, and the Head Teacher came to visit. It was great to see all the children in role. But I think we all agreed we preferred today's teaching methods!

Primary School Performance

In its 2015/16 Annual Report published in December, Ofsted has ranked Lewisham 2nd in the country (up from 5th) in relation to the performance of its primary schools.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-social-care-annual-report-2016>

There were however mixed SATs results. 23 primary schools in Lewisham had less than 50% of pupils reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths tests. For pupils' whose first language is not English, the reading test was especially hard. Across England, 53% of pupils met the expected standard in all 3 subjects.
<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/education/london-children-perform-better-than-rest-of-country-in-three-rs-tests-a3134316.html>

Please share stories of your schools.

Lewisham Education

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>

Children & Young People Select Committee

Meeting 11th November 2016

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/g4151/Public%20reports%20pack%2010th-Nov-2016%2019.00%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Select%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

Date of Next Meeting: 11th January 2017 at 7pm.

Transition between Primary and Secondary School

It is noted that the Committee is exploring the transition arrangements between Primary School and Secondary School, and has taken evidence from the Young Mayor's Advisors. Let's hope that future evidence sessions will also consider the views of parents.

Lewisham MP Ask Questions on Education

Heidi Alexander MP asked (and still awaits a response):

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.

On 11th December 2016, Vicki Foxcroft MP asked "the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to increase the number of school places in (a) London and (b) England."

Nick Gibb MP replied: "The Government has already committed £7 billion for school places in England, which along with our investment in 500 new free schools we expect to deliver 600,000 new places by 2021.

London received almost £2 billion in basic need funding between 2011 and 2015 and has been allocated over £1 billion for 2015-19. This funding has helped to create 200,000 school places in London between 2010 and 2015, with many more expected to be delivered."

An Aspiration: 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, including the parents of the children in the schools. We value transparency and accountability and wish all of our schools to work

together, regardless of structure, for the benefit of our children. A New Year project!

Lewisham Borough-wide Parent Education Network Group – Engage: Save the Date

Heidi Alexander MP has agreed 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

and Cllr Paul Maslin have indicated their support. It is likely that the event will be held in March 2017, on a Saturday morning for 1.5 hours. Date and venue to be determined.

Ofsted Reports

Lewisham Schools Ofsted Inspections & Reports - None published since October 2016.

Other Boroughs Schools Ofsted Inspections and Reports Source: Ofsted

Month Published	School	LA	Previous Rating	New Rating
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
Nov-16	Langley School for Girls	Bromley	Good	Good
Dec-16	Castlecombe Primary School	Bromley	Academy Conversion	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
Nov-16	Harris Invictus Academy Croydon	Croydon		Outstanding
Nov-16	Castle Academy	Croydon	Good	Inadequate
Nov-16	Andrew's CofE Voluntary Aided High School	Croydon	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement
Dec-16	Heavers Farm Primary School	Croydon	Good	Good
Jul-16	Alderwood Primary School	Greenwich	Requires Improvement	Requires Improvement
Sep-16	Wingfield Primary School	Greenwich	Requires Improvement	Good
Sep-16	Woodhill Primary School	Greenwich	Requires Improvement	Good
Oct-16	Thorntree Primary School	Greenwich	Good	Good
Nov-16	Linton Mead Primary School	Greenwich	Good	Good
Nov-16	Discovery Primary School	Greenwich	Good	Good
Nov-16	Holy Family Catholic Primary	Greenwich	Good	Good
Dec-16	Ealdham Primary School	Greenwich	Good	Good
Nov-16	Jubilee Primary School	Lambeth	Requires Improvement	Good
Nov-16	Christ Church, Streatham Church of England Primary School	Lambeth	Good	Good
Dec-16	Archbishop Tennison's School	Lambeth	Good	Inadequate
Dec-16	Kings Avenue School	Lambeth	Good	Requires Improvement
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
Nov-16	Alfred Salter Primary School	Southwark	Good	Requires Improvement

News from Parliament

Selection, Funding and Testing

More Selection

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. It is also proposed to remove the 50% cap on selection by faith to encourage the building of more faith schools.

The move to create more grammar and faith schools has been strongly opposed by Diocese, academics, unions, Labour, the Lib Dems, prominent members of the Conservative party and Sir Michael Wilshaw, the Head of Ofsted. In my opinion, it is wrong for schools to choose their pupils based on academic ability or faith. More selection means less choice for parents.

There are a few counties where the majority of schools are selective. Kent is one of those counties, and these stories from parents demonstrate the harm that selection does (provided by Jo Barley from Kent Education Network). The names of the parents and children have been changed:

Story 1 – John & Tommy

Tommy is doing very well at primary school, he wants to go to grammar school, as do most of his friends. His dad can afford an 11+ tutor, and he knows most of the local children have tutors for a year or more, but he decides 11+ tutoring is unfair. He knows some families cannot afford tutors and decides, based on his principles, to practise with his son at home instead. The council say that tutoring is not needed.

So, Tommy and his dad spend time in the summer holiday going through practise papers. Tommy takes the 11+ in September. Tommy failed. He says it doesn't matter, but the next day he cries on the way to school. Most of his friends passed the test. Tommy's dad went to a grammar school, his sister goes to a grammar school.

Tommy tells his dad he wants to go to the same school as his sister. But he can't.

John looks at the local school options and is worried. There are a couple of schools rated 'Good' by Ofsted but both are faith schools, they're a bus ride away, oversubscribed, and he doesn't go to church. His son will need to go to the local 'high school' which has a poor reputation and is a secondary modern, not an all ability school. It has few high achieving pupils, and it has recruitment problems. Tommy starts school and encounters lots of supply teachers, and gets bored because he isn't really challenged. John is angry at himself, he feels his principles have messed up his son's education. He knows lots of children of similar ability to his son pass the 11+, just because they had tutors.

A survey suggests 45% of parents in Kent do pay for tutors. Many spend £2,000 for a year for 11+ coaching. No one has researched the points difference this coaching might make. However, GL Assessment who set the 11 plus have commissioned research that shows their test is only accurate for 70% of tested children. It is clearly a flawed test. A flawed test means unfair admissions.

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Story 2 – Linda and Clare

Clare is doing well at school, and Linda wants her to try for a grammar school place. She can't really afford an 11+ tutor, but they skip a holiday and Linda takes an extra job. Clare practises with a tutor after school. Clare fails the 11+ and feels awful. Her mum has wasted more than a thousand pounds on a tutor. The tutor taught her how to do non-verbal reasoning puzzles. Clare decides she has let her mum down, she thinks school work is not her strength. She starts to

mess about in class and makes no effort with homework, she is underachieving.

Linda is 'just about managing', but she spent money she could not afford due to Kent's system. The government also think grammar schools are good for social mobility, but they simply don't know how many children give up on education when the 11 plus fails them.

The Kent Education Network surveyed Kent head teachers and 92% of heads said failing the 11+ effected children's self-esteem, 60% said it also effected future ambition. No one really studies the impact of this 11+ confidence problem.

OECD PISA 2015 Report

The government's approach to education does not meet any of the recommendation of the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

1. Increase support to disadvantaged students and schools (this suggests more funding);
2. Delay the sorting (selection) process. Selection at the age of 11 is too early.
3. Continue investing in good teachers and empower them to teach effectively. Instead we have a teacher recruitment and retention problem
4. Break down stereotypes and challenge. gender stereotypes about science-related activities and occupations and increase student awareness of the range of career opportunities opened up by science and technology training.

The full report can be found here: <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/launch-of-pisa-2015-results.htm>

Less Funding

London MPs pleas to the Secretary of State to level up funding seems to have fallen on deaf ears. The latest proposal is that schools in major cities, including London, will receive up to 3% less funding per year, whilst schools in the counties will receive more. In the first year, the reduction will be capped at 1.5% to assist schools to adjust. Under this proposal, 10,000

Russell Hobby, general secretary of the NAHT headteachers' union, said school budgets were "being pushed beyond breaking point", and said investment in grammar schools was "the wrong priority". He said: "Almost nine out of 10 school leaders are telling us that a rise in national insurance employer

schools will gain, 5000 schools will lose. Schools in Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich will lose more funding under the proposal. Head Teachers are warning that they will have to cut headcount and shorten the school day to cope with funding cuts.

contributions and pension contributions are the key reasons behind financial pressures in their school. Freezing budgets at a time of rising costs is no protection at all. The government has the levers to address rising costs, but has again failed to pull them.

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In fact, with the new apprenticeship levy it is taking Neil Carmichael MP, Chair of Education Committee expressed his concern around the delays to the government fairer funding proposals and the financial pressure being put on schools. The Education Committee has expressed its interest in the Public Accounts Committee session with the DFE on the

yet more money out of schools." financial sustainability of schools. Neil Carmichael's letter to Nick Gibb MP can be found here: <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/Education/Letter-from-Chair-to-Nick-Gibb-MP-regarding-national-funding-formulae.pdf>

More Testing

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 (which suggests that she is not listening). She will be launching a consultation about the future of primary assessment.

The Education Committee opened an Inquiry into Primary Assessment, and took evidence from Primary School Heads and Russell Hobby, General Secretary, NAHT and others on 14th December 2016. You can watch the session: <http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/e2eb6e2a-c6b2-421b-823f-aa1060f7fb2c>

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."* *In reality, this government will allow every school but LA maintained schools to expand.*

The Regional School Commissioner

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

The DfE published a report in November 2016 estimating that 100 schools in the South East South London region will fall into this category. None of Lewisham schools fall into this category. You have to

wonder how the RSC is going to deal with coasting schools when it cannot find sponsors for 60 LA maintained schools rated Inadequate (and in a few cases a school has been waiting for more than 2 years).

You can find the "Coasting" report via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coasting-schools-in-england-november-2016-provisional-data>

Commons Education Select Committee

Multi Academy Trusts

The final session took place on 30th November 2016 when Lord Nash and others gave evidence. It has been a wide ranging inquiry taking evidence from the Head of Ofsted, the National School

Commissioner, CEOs of MATs, teacher union representatives, education researchers, the Education Secretary of State and parents.

NEW: Children and young people's mental health - the role of education inquiry (written submissions by 20/1/2017)

The Education Committee are seeking evidence for a short inquiry specifically examining the role of education in promoting emotional wellbeing in children and young people and preventing the development of mental health problems.

With a specific focus on the role of educational settings in prevention and early intervention, the Committee will be examining:

- Promoting emotional wellbeing, building resilience, and
- establishing and protecting good mental health
- Support for young people with mental health problems
- Building skills for professionals
- Social media and the internet

Academy Watch

- “Inadequate” academies improve faster under local authority oversight than as an academy <http://www.localschoolsnetwork.org.uk/2015/12/ofsted-reveals-that-a-school-is-six-times-as-likely-to-remain-inadequate-if-it-becomes-a-sponsored-academy>
- Becoming a part of a multi academy trust does not improve stability. Some Academy Trusts have been stripped of some of their academies. For example Schools Partnership Trust Academies: <http://schoolsweek.co.uk/spta-to-be-stripped-of-isolated-nottinghamshire-schools-and-future-of-doncaster-academies-in-doubt/>
- Failing academies exclude in order to “improve”: Centre for High Performance, Oxford. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/12192753/Unruly-pupils-excluded-by-failing-academies-to-boost-standards.html>
- The Government does not know how many academy sites belong to it. <http://schoolsweek.co.uk/dfе-needs-to-spend-20m-to-resolve-academy-land-confusion/>
- There are 43 current letters issued by EFA that serve as a written notice to improve financial management, control and governance at an academy trust. 8 date from 2014 and are still active. A further 11 have been closed. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/academies-financial-notice-to-improve>

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- There are 162 Warning or Termination notices issued by the DfE to academies and academy trusts. 57 pre warning and 2 warning notices were issued in 2012 and are still in place.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-letters-to-academy-trusts-about-poor-performance>
- At least 5 academy trusts appear on both the two lists above.

The idea that Multi Academy Trusts have been created to improve education standards is clearly not true when it is left to the CEO of the MAT to cherry pick which schools to take. A school that is not financially viable ie operating a deficit and paying PFI, is not attractive to a MAT. This has left 60 LA maintained schools rated Inadequate without a sponsor. That said, those schools that have been waiting for a few years have managed to secure improvement resulting in improved Ofsted ratings

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



And Finally, wishing you all a peaceful and restful Christmas and all best wishes for 2017



To Join CASE: <http://www.campaignforstateeducation.org.uk/CASE%20membership%20form%202015.pdf>

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 and 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

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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