

Q&A: WITH THE NEW PRINCIPAL OF CHELSEA ACADEMY

'We hope to be one of London's top schools'



BY this time next year, a new £38million academy school will serve the children of Chelsea. With expectations building, and another academy earmarked for North Kensington, reporter ELLIE DYER asked 40-year-old principal Andy Yarrow about his plans for the Lots Road site.

Q: So how did you come to be principal of the new school?

A: I was headteacher at Hornsey School for Girls in north London from 2004-8. I said I'd only leave if I had the chance to set up a brand new school. It's a real honour to now be headteacher of a school which will last for hundreds of years.

Q: Tell me about the ethos of the new Chelsea Academy, which is a Church of England school.

A: I think the Royal Borough would accept no less than us becoming

an outstanding school. Our crest emphasises that and incorporates a Chelsea anchor and a cross. We hope to be one of the top schools in London.

Q: For the first year, 162 pupils will learning in temporary accommodation in Hortensia Road. Is this a problem?

A: That includes a school hall, six classrooms, a play area, decking, and every child will have a computer. There is no scrimping and saving going on. The children will not lose out.



HIGH HOPES: Chelsea Academy head Andy Yarrow GH1_9205

Q: Some schools in London have brought in knife scanners to help curb teen crime. Is that an option?

A: There have been discussions with schools, parents and police about knife-detecting arches. But the school has a Christian ethos, which we hope will be far more effective. A proactive approach can deal with knives without detectors ever becoming necessary. My aspiration is to carry forth a concept of 'love thy neighbour'.

Q: Can we expect any special features in your curriculum?

A: There will be a mixture of single sex teaching and mixed classes as boys and girls learn in

different ways. Teachers will also hold 'enrichment' lessons as part of the curriculum, which could be anything from chess to growing Bonsai trees.

Q: Some residents have been concerned that school traffic and pupil exodus will affect the Lots Road area, what do you think?

A: We don't have parking spaces and most children will come here on public transport. We'll keep the students in at lunch times, and are considering staggering school times. The pupils won't all be surging in and surging out at once.

● To find out more see www.chelsea-academy.org or call 020 7598 4861.



oster someone else's child?

life and in your home, you could foster.

Paula is