

Richmond - Twickenham TIMES

rftimes.co.uk

Friday, August 31, 2012

Established 1873

NEW REG 62



Moving forward: Richmond Inclusive Schools Campaign chairman Jeremy Rodell has vowed to pursue the legal battle as long as a limit can be secured on the cost of the court case

In the news

Jolly good show

Plan B for Boatman gets council approval

Page 3

Heathrow noises

Cameron under pressure from MPs

Page 7



Judgement day

Catholic school campaigners granted judicial review

By Paul Teed

pteed@london.newsquest.co.uk

Opponents of the council's proposed new Catholic school will get their day at the High Court.

Judge Ockleton said the British Humanist Association (BHA) and the Richmond Inclusive Schools Campaign (Risc) should be allowed to challenge Richmond Council's plans for the site in Clifden Road, Twickenham.

The BHA, whose supporters include comedian Stephen Fry

and author Salman Rushdie, said the case could have huge national implications if it wins.

Campaigners claimed the Government's new Education Act meant the council first had to consider proposals for an academy or free school, which can only enrol a maximum of 50 per cent of pupils based on their religion.

Lord True, leader of Richmond Council, said he was disappointed by the High Court's decision to grant a judicial review, which will look into whether the authority acted lawfully when it approved

the Diocese of Westminster's plans for a new Catholic primary and secondary school on May 24.

He said the council's own survey found 67 per cent of parents and residents supported the move.

Lord True said: "I am disappointed that despite the clear, democratic decision that has been taken by our community, the national BHA and its local acolyte, have moved forward with their campaign.

"This delay and uncertainty will also be of huge concern to a large number of parents who have

already started applying for places for their children at either of the schools."

The council's plan for a new Catholic school, which would prioritise admissions to children from Catholic families, caused huge controversy amid concerns of a shortage of classroom places across the borough.

Jeremy Rodell, spokesman for Risc, vowed to push ahead with the legal battle as long as it can secure a limit on court costs.

Continued on page 4

The Eye Store

FRAME SALE

UP TO 50% OFF

Until September 8th 2012

51 King Street Parade,
Twickenham TW1 3SG
Tel: 020 8891 2020

Minicabs • Minibuses • Couriers
• Executive • Chauffeur



Telephone

020 8560 0000

Fares from £4.80

Crooked smile? Teeth not straight?

There is no need for you to hide your smile any longer. The Smile Studios accredited dentists have a wealth of experience in helping patients reclaim the joys of life by offering state of the art, yet affordable smile makeovers. Take the first step towards your new smile:

CALL TODAY 020 8332 6833

www.thesmilestudios.co.uk

Weekend appointments available

free consult

5 Hill Street • Richmond • TW9 1SX

Next to Wagamama & opposite Waterstones on Richmond High St, London SW9 4JY



DENTAL SPA
THE SMILE STUDIOS

Richmond - Twickenham TIMES

news
Pages 1 to 21

Suits you Mo Farah
page 4



rt2
Pages 22 to 25



Sculptor joins an elite band
page 22

sport
Pages 44 to 46

Henson's return delayed
page 54




'Justice will prevail'

Getting involved: Six-year-old James Joyce and his brother Alex, four, with a banner they made with their dad Seamus to help back plans for a new Catholic school in Twickenham

By Rachel Bishop

rbishop@london.newsquest.co.uk

A leading campaigner in the fight for a new Catholic school has said he is confident justice will prevail in a judicial review of the council's decision.

Seamus Joyce has two sons, six-year-old James and four-year-old Alex, and hopes to send them both to the Catholic school, in Clifden Road, Twickenham.

The judicial review was brought by Richmond Inclusive Schools Campaign (Risc) and the British Humanist Association (BHA).

They claimed Richmond Council has not acted in accordance with the Government's new Education Act as it did not consider proposals for an academy or free school, which can only enrol a maximum of 50 per cent of pupils



Confident of victory: Pro-Catholic school campaigners make their feelings clear

based on their religion.

The council said it acted within the law.

Mr Joyce said: "As a parent of two young boys attending a Catholic primary school in the borough, I was disappointed to hear my children's secondary schooling now depends on the decision of [a High Court judge].

"This is a local matter in

which people had many opportunities to express their views and an overwhelming majority supported the proposal to establish a Catholic secondary school here.

"It is a great shame that a legal challenge supported by the BHA is attempting to prevent the school from opening.

"However, I am confident

justice will prevail and that the many Richmond children who currently have to travel to other boroughs for their education will be able to stay in Richmond.

"I express regret that council taxpayers' money has to be spent on defending a decision - money that would be better spent on improving education for all in this borough."

TOTAL COMBINED AUDIENCE Source: Telmar

69,648 unduplicated print and online local readership April 2012

CIRCULATION ABC READERS Jicreg

42,489 93.4% Free Jan-June 2012

59,767 April 2012 people read this newspaper every week

ABC provides the industry standard audit which is proof of a title's circulation claims

ABC1 73%
C2DE 27%

93.4% Free

Home delivery 92.0%

Paid-for 6.5%

Free pickups 1.5%

E-SUBSCRIBERS

1,409 receive our e-edition by email every week

BULK AVAILABILITY Publisher's statement

440 additional copies are made available for free pick up at estate agents, supermarkets, libraries etc. For a full list of outlets please phone 01689 836211

WEB AUDIENCE Omniture RECYCLING



36,364 unique users visit the site every month. Jan-June 2012

152,742 pages are looked at every month. July 2012

www.rftimes.co.uk

Read us, then recycle us
We support recycling. The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2011 was 78.9% Source: NNI/EAG



Your RTT aims to bring you the most important local news and information in a way that is fair, accurate and balanced. We adhere to the Press Complaints Commission code of practice but if you wish to comment on any story, write to the editor, David Rankin, Second floor, Allied House, 29 to 39 London Road, Twickenham TW1 3SZ

The RTT is published by Newsquest Media Group, a Gannett Company

Opponents from 'across spectrum'

Continued from front page

He said: "That's good news for the thousands of people in the borough who think that it's wrong to use the only currently-available site for a state-funded school that can turn away local children simply because of their parents' beliefs, especially when there's so much competition for high quality secondary school places."

He also hit back at Lord True's claims that members of Risc were acolytes of the BHA.

He said: "Lord True knows full well that Risc supporters come from right across the spectrum, even including

some Catholics.

"Most supporters don't care about religion or humanism but simply want good schools open to all."

The BHA said the hearing - expected to start in October - would be the first case of campaigners legally challenging a faith school because of religious discrimination.

Andrew Copson, chief executive of the BHA, said:

"When proposing to establish new state-funded schools, religious groups largely avoid competition with other proposals and instead usually arrange directly with councils to open schools 'by the back door', leaving the public with

no other choices.

"When such an arrangement has been reached, proposed faith schools have had a 100 per cent success rate in subsequently opening.

"It is time to challenge this practice and attempt to redress the imbalance in the routes through which faith schools and other schools can open."

Lord True said the High Court case will come at a huge cost to taxpayers in Richmond.

He added: "As I have said before, the council will defend our local decision against legal action confidently and vigorously, seeking to recoup any costs."



Criticised: Council leader Lord True

CONTACTS Calls may be monitored for training purposes	EDITORIAL Editor: David Rankin newsdesk@rtt.co.uk Tel: 020 8744 4262	DISTRIBUTION Newspaper deliveries delivery@london.newsquest.co.uk Tel: 0800 3345656	ADVERTISING Leah Gauthier lgauthier@london.newsquest.co.uk Tel: 020 8744 4223	MOTURING Wendy Croft wcroft@london.newsquest.co.uk Tel: 020 8722 6441	PROPERTY Nicola Burton nburton@london.newsquest.co.uk Tel: 020 8722 6436	CLASSIFIED Please phone or email privateads@london.newsquest.co.uk Tel: 020 8722 6400	LEAFLET SALES Please phone or email ppatel@london.newsquest.co.uk Tel: 01494 755109
---	--	---	---	---	--	---	---