

Burnham Community Through School – Update

All those of us that share an interest in education appreciate greatly the challenges that headteachers and their staff continue to tackle as a result of the pandemic. And furthermore – all those with links to Burnham Grammar School will also understand the excitement and apprehension as they prepare to migrate to their new school building.

So it remains abundantly clear that we face an extremely challenging task in making the case to reopen Burnham's secondary school on the Opendale Road site. The proposal by the headteachers of Burnham Grammar School and Lent Rise Junior School to establish a through school undoubtedly has merit but our judgement is that we will need to campaign very effectively in order to reopen the School in September 2023. This will mean that children currently in Year 4 and below would then all have the opportunity to attend a local secondary school here in Burnham.

Many of you may have noticed that a film company have been using the Opendale Road site as a film set over the past few months and more recently Burnham Library has also been a location. We understand that it will be a Netflix production and that they intend to vacate the School's premises at the end of June 2021.

We are hopeful that ongoing discussions with Bucks. Council, with the support of our newly elected County Councillors, will enable the local community to gain access to all the sports facilities at the School from September 2021 and onwards.

Further research will be undertaken to understand the decisions made by parents and children currently in Year Six at our local primary schools – Priory, Our Lady of Peace, Lent Rise, St Peter's, Dorney, Farnham Royal and Taplow – as to which new school they will be attending from September 2021.

Furthermore, we plan to have a stand at the forthcoming Burnham Summer Fete on Saturday 10th July when we hope you will sign up to the campaign and offer your support in any way that you can.

And finally, recent government announcements have emphasised its commitment to enhancing adult education which will be very much welcomed here in Burnham as we look into incorporating this provision into both of Burnham's secondary schools.

Viv Nicholas. Second Draft – 10th May 2021.