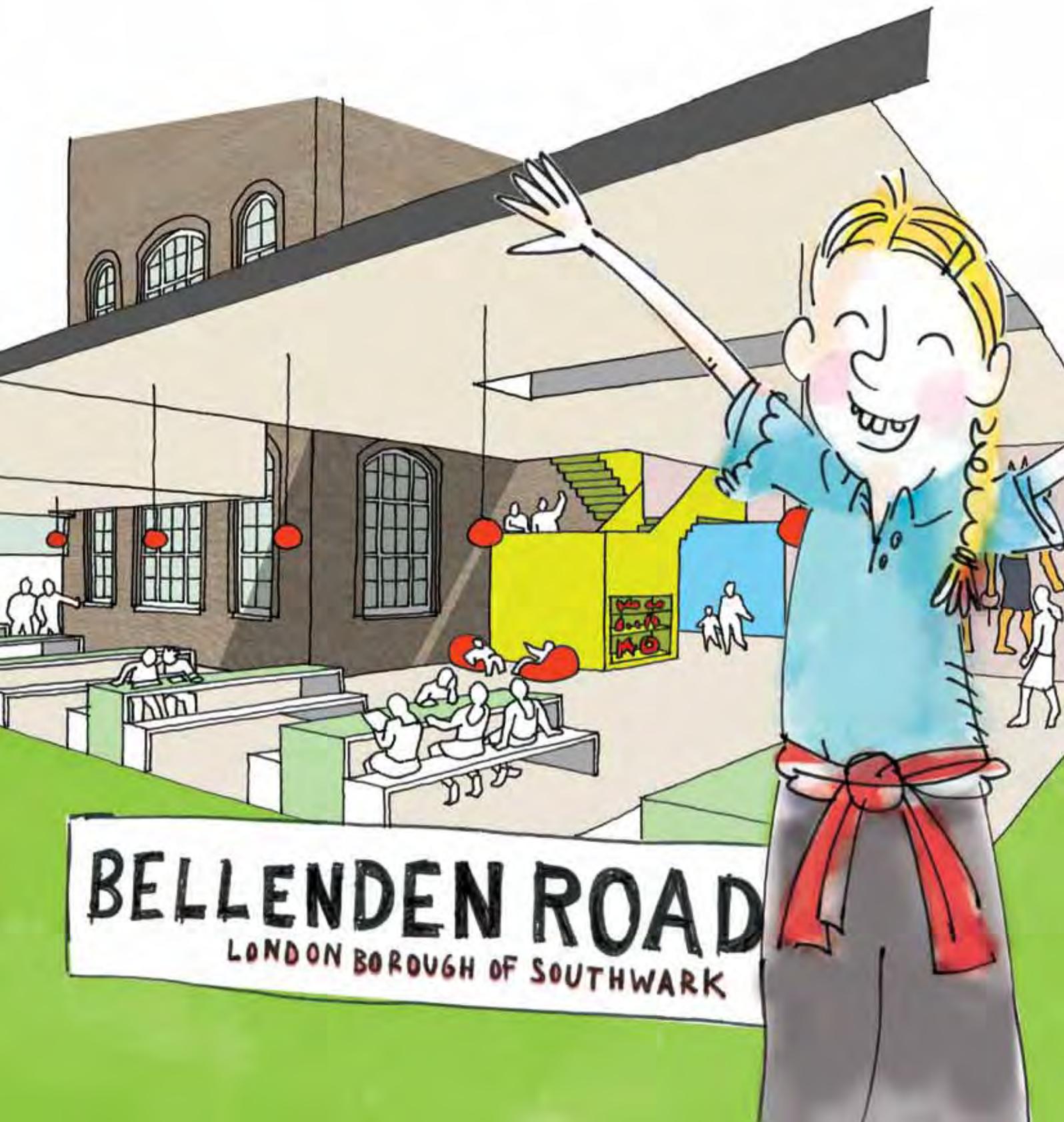


# The Belham Primary School



**A NEW SCHOOL  
AT THE HEART OF  
YOUR COMMUNITY**



**BELLENDEN ROAD**  
LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK



# OUTSTANDING LEARNING

I am excited that next September 2015, we will be welcoming 90 new children into a new fully funded state school in the heart of the Bellenden community.

I am currently Head Teacher of Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, not far from the new school setting, and next year will become Executive Head Teacher of The Hamlet and The Belham Primary School. I am thrilled to bring our outstanding approach to education to a new group of learners.

We have a great track record, know what works (and what doesn't), and have incredibly high aspirations. We believe that our unique combination of high quality teaching of the core subjects of English and Maths, ensuring lessons are tailored to meet the range of abilities, enriched by a full curriculum of Science, History, Geography, RE, Art, Music, Design Technology, Computing, Sport, PE and French, and enhanced by extra-curricular activities encompassing everything from Cookery to Circuit Training, results in children who attain highly, achieve widely and most importantly love learning!

Please do consider The Belham Primary School for your child for September 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Sonia Case'.

**Mrs Sonia Case,  
Executive Head Teacher**



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and have incredibly high aspirations.



## WHO WE ARE

The Belham Primary School will be operated by Dulwich Hamlet Educational Trust, a charitable trust registered at Companies House. The Trust was formed in 2011 when Dulwich Hamlet Junior School converted to Academy status, and is currently run by the governors of The Hamlet, including the Head Teacher.

In 2013 the Trust was approached by Southwark Council with a proposal to open a new school, providing much-needed new primary places for the borough. The Government's free school programme was identified as the best route for the Trust and the Council to take.

With the creation of the new school, Dulwich Hamlet Educational Trust will become a Multi-Academy Trust. Mrs Sonia Case will be Executive Head Teacher of both The Belham Primary School and Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, while each school will have its own Head of School and Local Governing Body.

### **Skills and experience**

The Trust employs a team of highly skilled and experienced staff, covering leadership and management, policy development including responding to new educational legislation,

and curriculum development with a particularly strong focus on artistic and musical provision.

In addition we have a huge range of skills and experience — financial, buildings development, legislative and personnel management — amongst our governors, which are essential to the development of a new school.

### **Attainment and progress**

Our existing school in Dulwich Village has a reputation for educational excellence which is reflected in high demand as well as recognition at a much wider level. Through our innovative approach to education, children at The Hamlet make incredible progress. On leaving us, attainment is very high, but more importantly, levels of progress (in 2013, over 96% making two levels of progress in reading and 39% making an outstanding three levels at the end of Key Stage 2) demonstrate our commitment to all children, irrespective of their starting points. In 2013, The Hamlet was awarded membership of the Mayor's London Schools' Gold Club in recognition of exceptional teaching practice and sharing best practice with other schools.



## GLITTERING CURRICULUM

### Active engagement

In our experience the best learning occurs for children when they are actively engaged in the learning process. Children will be offered a very wide range of experiences to extend their understanding of themselves and to foster curiosity and fascination for the world in which they live. The school will expect everyone to develop and show a sense of responsibility and self-discipline, whether alone, together, at work or at play.

We will promote a positive, energetic, caring atmosphere where children always feel safe and secure and wish to come to school. We are dedicated to equality of opportunity where all children and adults are respected, regardless of race, ethnicity or ability.

### Immersed in the arts and innovation

Our approach to learning ensures that not only are the standards of the National Curriculum met, but so much more is on offer besides. This highly enriched curriculum values the role of the arts in providing and enhancing a broad education.

The visual arts provide a window into other times and cultures and allow children to explore their own emotions and identity, whilst design technology incorporates problem solving and collaborative working practices to overcome difficulties, thus building resilience.

Musical training leads to faster brain responses to sound and speech, strengthens memory and even improves mathematical attainment.

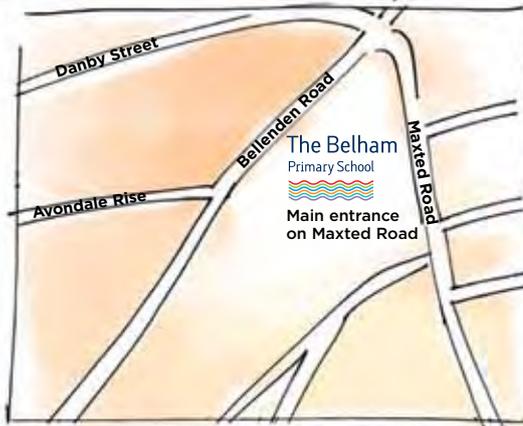
We use drama as a key tool in developing vocabulary, building confidence and self-esteem, and encouraging imaginative, expressive and persuasive spoken and written language.

### Into the community and beyond

Essential to our creative curriculum is making use of the incredible facilities and opportunities that London provides, both in terms of resources — museums, art galleries, concert halls, civic and public buildings, theatres and parks — and the wide range of people themselves. The taught curriculum will reflect the rich vibrancy of the local community: socially, culturally and ethnically.



© Haverstock



## THE SCHOOL BUILDING

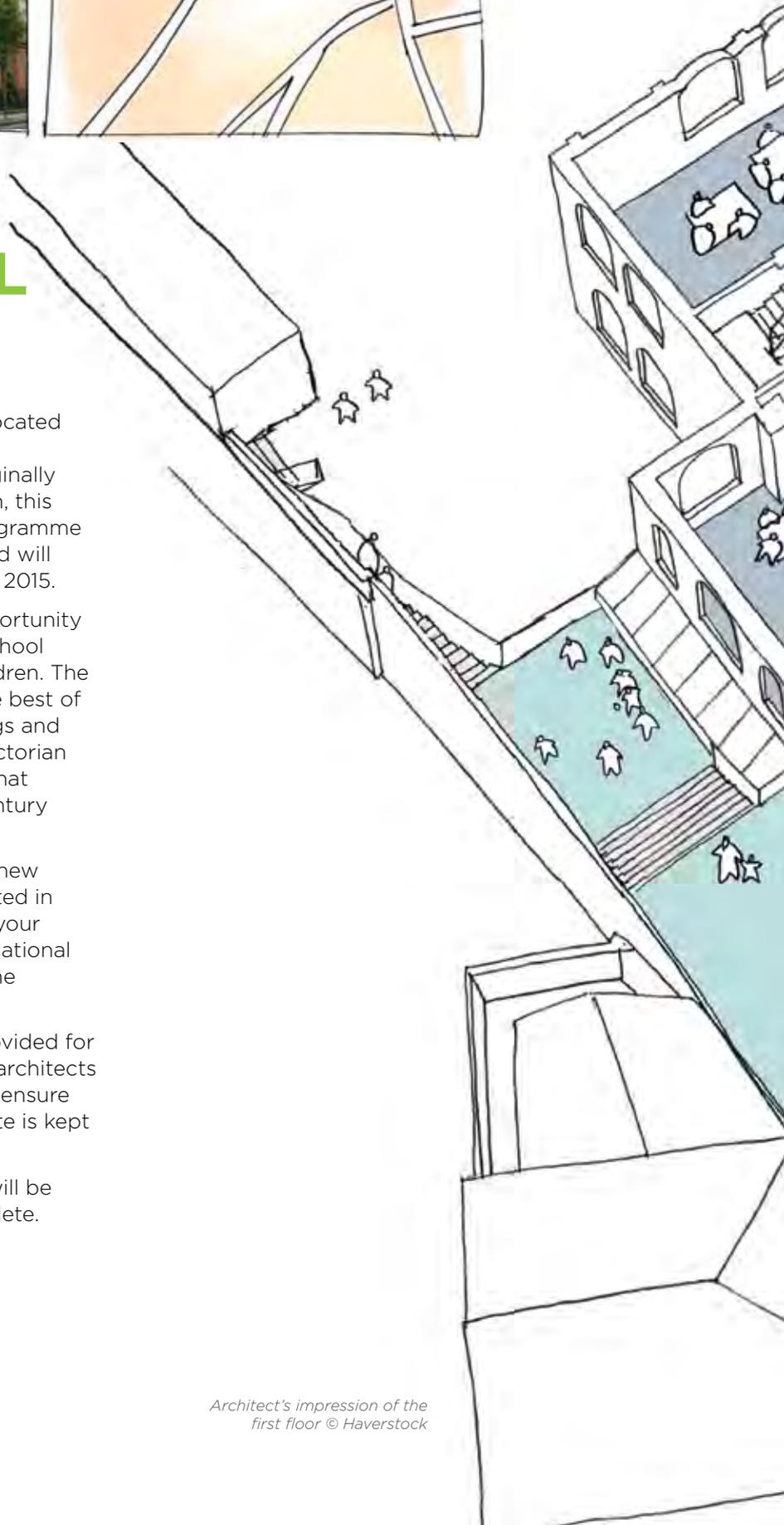
The Belham Primary School will be located on the site of **Old Bellenden School, 165 Bellenden Road, SE15 2DG**. Originally built by the School Board for London, this Victorian building will undergo a programme of remodelling and refurbishment and will open for its first pupils in September 2015.

We are incredibly excited by the opportunity to restore Bellenden Road's iconic school building for a new generation of children. The refurbished building will combine the best of the old and new, with the high ceilings and abundant natural light of a classic Victorian school building complemented by what we now know and desire in a 21st century educational environment.

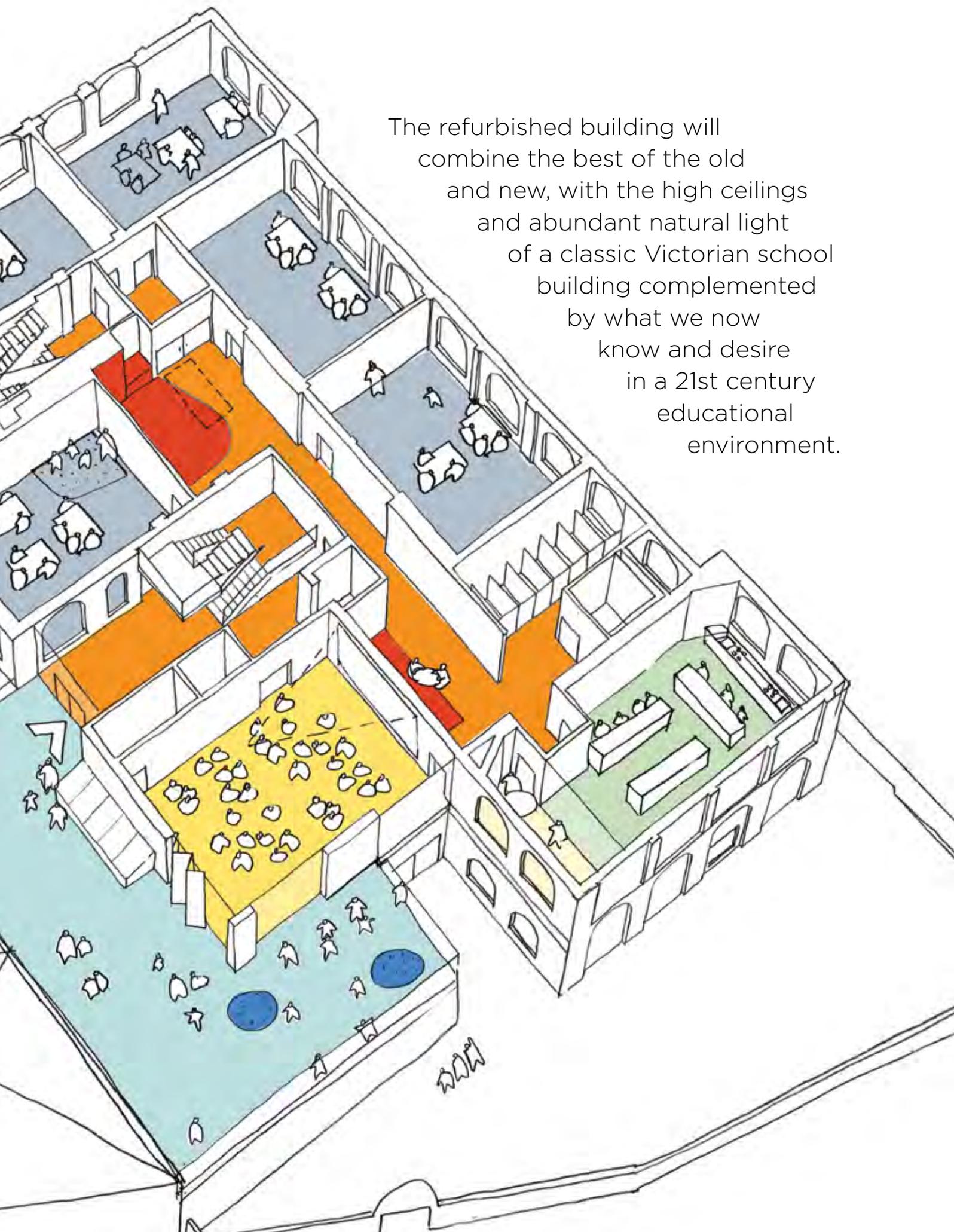
Given our timescale for opening the new school, building work will be completed in phases. The safety and wellbeing of your children and the quality of their educational experience from day one will be at the forefront of all that we do.

By September 2015 space will be provided for our first intake of 90 pupils, and the architects and contractor will work together to ensure that noise and disruption from the site is kept to a minimum.

By September 2016 building works will be finished and the school will be complete.



Architect's impression of the first floor © Haverstock



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# STAFF AND FACILITIES

## Our staff

Recruitment is at the heart of creating a great school and the Trust will employ only the very best: staff who enjoy working with children, who bring out the best in pupils and colleagues alike, who have excellent subject knowledge and who are prepared to go the extra mile. The staffing structure will be in line with best practice in primary education. Every class will have a qualified teacher and support staff to provide a personalised education. In addition we will employ specialists when appropriate, to support special needs such as speech and language development, and develop skills in music and sport.

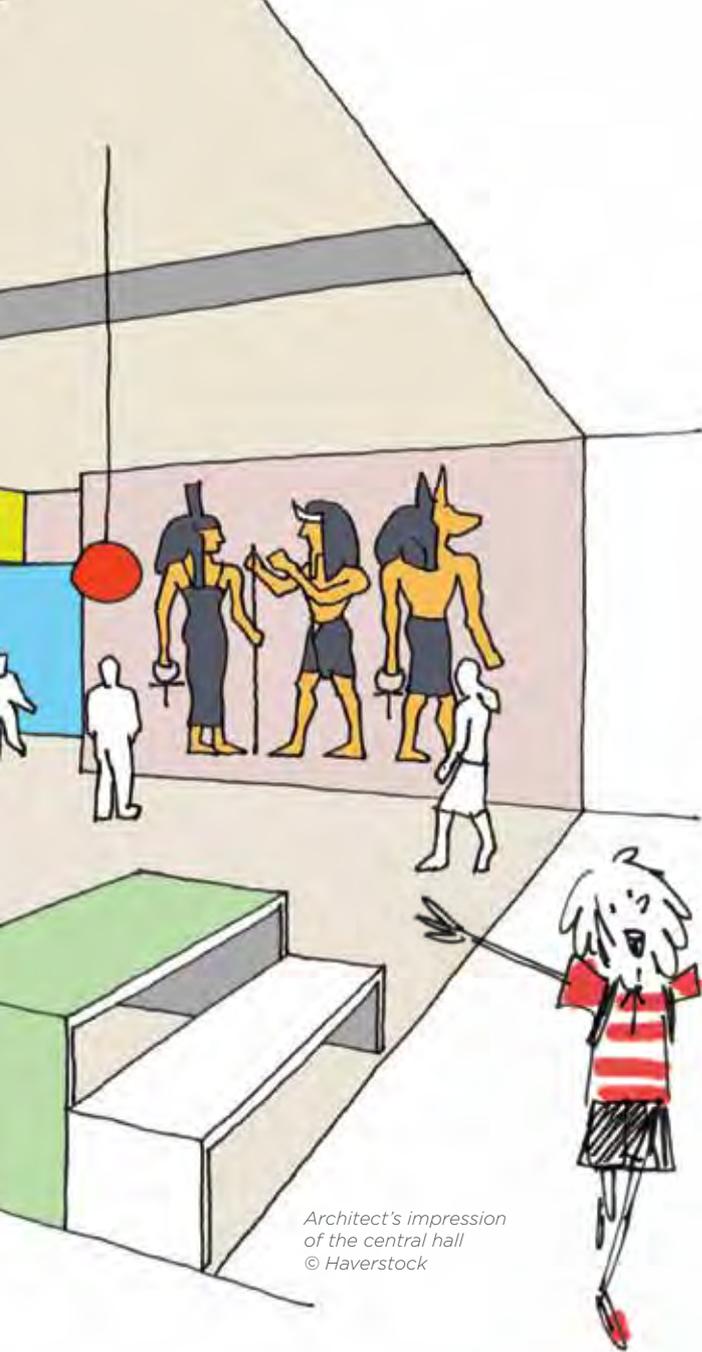
The Trust has tried and tested recruitment and staff appraisal policies which reward outstanding performance. We are committed to the principles that all teachers and other professionals possess expert knowledge in the subjects they teach, and that all teachers and other professionals are lifelong learners, committed to an ongoing development of their own knowledge and skills to optimise pupils' learning experiences.

## Our facilities

Every classroom will have interactive whiteboards and teaching walls. There will be dedicated spaces for practical work including cookery, music and movement. Healthy meals will be cooked from fresh ingredients every day. Spaces will be orderly, well organised and calm, but filled with stimulating learning displays and artefacts. We will keep up to date with the latest developments, investing in iPads, Lego Robotics and technology that hasn't yet been developed! Outdoor play spaces, including a roof garden, will create a sustainable environment which is also fun to explore.

## Wrap-around care

We will provide an extended day for working parents and carers from 7.45am to 6.00pm, with costs kept to a minimum. Breakfast Care will provide pupils with a healthy and nourishing breakfast. After School Care will provide an environment that allows pupils to socialise, engage in play, read and relax and eat a healthy, light tea. A wide range of age-appropriate clubs will be offered before and after school, from sport to cookery to architecture.



*Architect's impression  
of the central hall*  
© Haverstock

As local parents and carers, you will know that the school sits at the heart of a rapidly evolving, creative and passionate community.

## THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

### **Community involvement**

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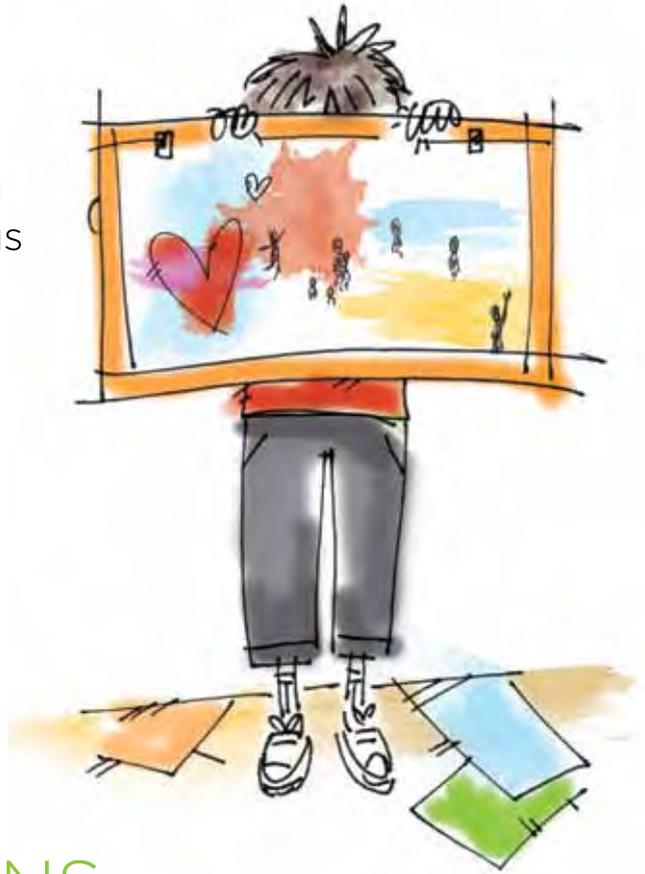
The community will influence what is taught and how it's taught; we will draw on the talents and experience of local people, building links with organisations and inviting artists, writers, musicians, scientists and other professionals to bring learning to life.

### **Community use**

Our vision for the school is to provide a building which will be at the heart of your community, and our architects are designing the space with this in mind. The school will have a central hall, kitchen and outdoor areas which can be given over to local people in the evenings and at weekends — from concerts to art exhibitions to pop-up dining, we hope the building will be well-used and well-loved.

“As a local parent, I am really excited about the plans for a new school with an ambitious and imaginative curriculum, and will be applying for my daughter in 2015.”

Anna, local resident



## OUR ADMISSIONS

### September 2015 intake

We are admitting 60 children into Reception, those born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011. For summer born children, starting school may be deferred to January 2016 if desired.

We are also admitting 30 children into a Year 1 class, those who will have started school in September 2014 or January 2015.

### Criteria

The Belham Primary School will be a non-selective and fully inclusive community school. Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs will be given special consideration according to the needs outlined in their Statement. Looked After children will also have priority admission. After that, children will be admitted on the basis of straight line distance from the main school gate.

Siblings of Reception children will be admitted first for the Year 1 class, and then distance will be the criteria for entry.

### How to apply

For September 2015 entry applications should be made directly to the school. Pick up an application form at one of our Open Evenings or download an electronic copy from our website [www.thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk)

Completed forms can be delivered by hand or post to Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, Dulwich Village SE21 7AL, or emailed to Joanne Pink at [jpink1.210@lgflmail.org](mailto:jpink1.210@lgflmail.org) no later than **Thursday 15 January 2015**.

Receipt will be acknowledged and notification of places offered sent out by both email and post before National Primary Offer Day, Thursday 16 April 2015.

It is important that parents additionally apply for other Southwark schools to ensure their child has a school place for September 2015. Please see [www.southwark.gov.uk](http://www.southwark.gov.uk) for further information. Please note that if both your applications are successful your child will receive two offers, one from The Belham Primary School and one from Southwark Council. You will need to notify us and Southwark as to which offer you accept.

Please note that for September 2016 entry onwards, applications will be made via Southwark primary admissions.



## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

When a new school is to open, there is a legal requirement to consult with the local community. We are actively seeking your comments, opinions and suggestions and welcome these from everyone, whether or not you are a prospective parent or carer.

Please look out for our consultation leaflets, complete our online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/belham2](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/belham2) and do attend one of our public meetings if you are able.

### Upcoming events

We are holding a series of meetings where you will be able to find out more about the school, meet the Head Teacher and some of our governors, and look at plans for the refurbishment of the school building.

All events will be held on the ground floor of Old Bellenden School.

**Tuesday 30 September 2014, 6.30-8.00pm**

**Wednesday 22 October 2014, 6.30-8.00pm**

**Thursday 23 October 2014, 9.00-11.00am**



## CONTACT US

Until the school opens, our team can be contacted at:

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Dulwich Village  
London  
SE21 7AL

Email: [info@thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk](mailto:info@thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk)

Telephone: 020 7525 9188/9

 [@thebelham](https://twitter.com/thebelham)

[www.thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.thebelhamprimaryschool.org.uk)

All details correct at time of print (September 2014)

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