

**Annex E: Consultation meeting with members of public, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 8:00pm**

**Menorah High School for Girls**

**Present:** Jason Marantz (education consultant), Dr David Landau (Chair), Mark Morris (governor), Brian Rabinowitz (governor), one parent, Keith Nason (NUT representative) and Councillor Arshad Mahmood (Councillor for Brent).

David and Jason gave an overview of the aims of the school and its proposal to become voluntary aided.

Nearly every girl except one who is joining next year is from Barnet. The school's location is also just over the border. The governors of the school hoped to find premises in Barnet, however the current site was the only suitable site they found.

Jason explained the school intends to create a soft federation with Menorah Grammar School for Boys.

The school aims to join the Borough to get access to funding, support and be able to work collaboratively with other schools in the Borough.

In response to questions, Jason and David explained that the school is non-selective. They also explained that the school is currently oversubscribed. The school received 76 applications for admissions to Year 7 in 2015 and have accepted 50 girls. The school only planned to take 44 but have been under immense pressure to take more children due to a lack of secondary places.

The school did explore gaining funding from the London Borough of Brent but was rejected immediately because of the high number of children from Barnet in the school (99.6%). This was explored but Brent advised the school it was not possible and they should discuss this with Barnet.

In response to further questions governors confirmed that they owned the building and the land. The school would cease charging fees and would start to request voluntary contributions. In response to a question about the school's main 'competition', Hasmonian was suggested.

One attendee commented that the services for schools now available are not as robust as they once were, now that the services have been privatised.

The meeting concluded with a tour of the school.