

# DULWICH COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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24<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Dear \*\*\*\*

## Premises Licence Application; 38-42 Alleyn Park

Thank you to those who attended the conciliation meeting on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November. Although we did not reach agreement, it was a constructive meeting and we have the framework for a potential resolution. Before turning to the key issues I thought it would be helpful to set out the types of event for which a licence is required under the Licensing Act 2003 since there appears to be some misconception that a licence is only necessary if alcohol is provided.

Licensable activities are:

- the sale by retail of alcohol;
- the supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club to, or to the order of, a member of the club;
- the provision of regulated entertainment; and
- the provision of late night refreshment.

Regulated entertainment includes:

- a performance of a play;
- an exhibition of a film;
- an indoor sporting event;
- a performance of live music;
- any playing of recorded music;
- a performance of dance.

From this you can see that a licence is now required not only if we serve a glass of wine at a parents' evening, but also if we hold a swimming gala, for a pupils' concert, for the hire of our Sports Hall to a local club for cricket nets and for a host of other benign events, all of which take place currently and have done for many years.

The two principal concerns appear to relate to late night activity (ie after 10.00pm) and activity outside term time (this should be defined as the staff term and not the pupil term, the former being slightly longer due to preparation days). At the meeting there appeared to be a general consensus that the aim was not to restrict normal school activities.

In the light of this we propose the following amendments to the application:

### Restrictions for DCPS usage (to include staff and PTA)

- No alcohol or late night refreshment to be served after 10.00pm except on a maximum of ten occasions per year when this will be extended to midnight (to allow for Old Boys' dinners, staff and PTA functions) – our neighbours will be notified in advance of these occasions;
- No music to be played outside after 9.00pm and no music at all after 10.00pm.

### **Restrictions for Third Party usage**

- No alcohol to be served at any time;
- No music to be played outside;
- No use by third parties of school premises in Alleyn Park after 10.00pm.

I hope that these restrictions will alleviate the concerns set out in the letters of objection and aired at the meeting. It is worth repeating that the School's aim, and that of Southwark Council, is to reduce the administrative burden of submitting detailed individual Temporary Event Notices: there is no intention to extend the range or duration of the events and activities which currently take place at the School.

The other issue which was raised at the meeting and which was a common theme in many of the letters of objection was parking and traffic flow. We are acutely conscious that this is a sensitive issue, particularly during term time, and we are exploring again with Southwark Council what possibilities exist to improve this. I shall write again on this issue in due course.