

## Press Release

Date: 7th September 2015

## Silent majority club together in support of new schools for Hounslow

Residents of Osterley have banded together to support the development of new schools in Hounslow, such as the Nishkam School, HIP School, Floreat School and Green School for Boys.

The residents were inspired to form 'Give Osterley Opportunity' (GOO) due to what they felt was a high level of misinformation being provided by opponents of new local schools. Their stated aim is to ensure that accurate and balanced information is made available to all. GOO make clear that they oppose the position of the 'Keep Osterley Green' (KOG) group and want more good schools in Hounslow to meet the increasing need for school places.

Ravinder Singh, one of the founders of GOO, said:

*"The group was started when residents around Osterley started receiving literature through the letterbox from KOG and others that seemed biased against the proposed new Nishkam school; for example saying that pupils of the school would not be local when 85% of current pupils are residents of Hounslow. We think it is important that there is a balanced debate.*

*"We, and the silent majority, support the excellent new school projects being planned for Hounslow and recognise the intense effort it takes to set up new schools, largely on a voluntary basis by educational organisations. We have therefore formed a group that supports education for local pupils and have to date have collected over 1200 letters of support."*

Mrs Anu Muthreja, a local resident and parent who joined GOO, said:

*"I have two small children and I want the best education possible for them. Everyone recognises that there are not enough school places in Hounslow and we need schools which have an excellent pedigree. I support this school due to the high quality of education that Nishkam have already brought into the local area."*

Miss Adrien Vass, a local parent at the temporary Nishkam West London School site, said:

*"I moved to this area 5 years ago and have always adored the surroundings of Osterley. It is a family orientated place a real pearl in this part of West London. Nishkam School will bring great opportunities for local people. We will have after school sport activities not just for*

# Give Osterley Opportunity

the school children but also facilities for locally residents and children. It would bring together people and strengthen the value of community. Plato the Greek philosopher said '*for the object of education is to teach us to love beauty*' by opening Nishkam School here would give opportunity to everyone to follow Plato's wisdom. The school opens it's doors to everyone who wants to learn regardless of religion or nationality. Let's give this wonderful opportunity to our future generation".

GOO point to Hounslow Council's own report on the Schools Expansion Programme that shows that Hounslow needs the equivalent of four new secondary schools by 2019 and does not have the funding to provide these. GOO highlights that free schools are the only mechanism by which this shortfall can be met and work needs to begin soon to avoid the Hounslow educational system reaching breaking point.

*If you would be interested in joining GOO or would like more information about the group please go to [www.giveosterleyopportunity.co.uk](http://www.giveosterleyopportunity.co.uk).*

**ENDS**

For more information, please email [giveosterleyopportunity@gmail.com](mailto:giveosterleyopportunity@gmail.com)