



Councillor Alex Sanderson  
Cabinet Member for Children & Education  
Councillor for College Park & Old Oak ward  
Tel: 020 8753 2018  
Email: alex.sanderson@lbhf.gov.uk



20 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing again because the communications issued by the school over the last 24 hours raise serious concerns about both process and practicality, and it is important that families hear clearly from the Council.

The position set out by the Lycée has caught parents, staff, partners and the local authority by surprise. The speed at which major structural changes are being proposed is extraordinarily tight and close to unworkable, particularly given the number of children affected and the complexity of the arrangements on the Clancarty Road site.

Contrary to usual custom and practice, the Council has not received any direct communication from the Lycée or from the French authorities ahead of these announcements. We are both surprised and concerned that such significant proposals were shared with parents before any meaningful attempt were made to work through a way forward with partners or the local authority.

I want to be clear about a number of points.

Firstly, the building and site are not owned or controlled by the institution issuing these letters. Any suggestion that fundamental changes can simply be implemented at pace, without agreement, due process, or regard to existing arrangements, is deeply concerning.

Secondly, proposals of this scale – affecting governance, staffing, admissions, funding, and curriculum delivery – cannot responsibly be designed, agreed, and implemented in a matter of weeks. That is not how children’s education should be managed, and it is not how the Council will allow state-funded provision to be treated.

Thirdly, the manner in which these intentions have been communicated – directly to parents, without clarity on feasibility or prior resolution with partners – has created unnecessary anxiety. Parents are right to feel unsettled by this.

I also want to reassure families that the Bilingual partnership is governed by a suite of formal legal documents, which all parties are legally bound to follow. These agreements set out the responsibilities, decision-making processes and expectations that must be adhered to, and they remain fully in force.

The Council is supporting Holy Cross in seeking clarification from the Lycée regarding its latest correspondence. That clarification will inform the next steps and our ongoing work to protect and maintain a high-quality, state-maintained bilingual offer for Hammersmith & Fulham children.

The Council’s position is as follows:

- We do not accept rushed or unilateral approaches that risk destabilising children's education.
- We do not accept proposals that overlook governance, legal obligations, or statutory responsibilities.
- We will insist on evidence, transparency, and realism before any future model is considered viable.
- Our overriding priority remains continuity, stability, and high-quality state-funded bilingual education for children in Hammersmith & Fulham.

The Council is actively engaging with Fulham Bilingual, the Lycée, and the French Authorities and scrutinising the position being put forward. We are examining feasibility, timelines, and the legal and practical realities that apply. No outcome has been agreed, and no change can simply be imposed.

I appreciate how unsettling this moment is. Parents should not be placed in a position where they are asked to absorb major announcements without clarity, reassurance, or proper planning behind them.

As soon as there is further information – grounded in facts rather than assertions – families will be updated directly.

Thank you for your continued engagement, and for keeping the focus where it rightly belongs - on our borough's children.

With best wishes,



Cllr Alex Sanderson  
Cabinet Member for Children & Education.