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## Hey! Bankers! Leave Those Kids Alone: the fight to save Islington Green School<sup>[1]</sup>

KEN MULLER

**ABSTRACT** The author traces the history of the campaign to stop Islington Green School being closed and turned into an academy specialising in business and financial services. Although the campaign, after a number of successes now looks as if it might fail in its immediate objective, the author argues that the battle was still worth fighting because of the contribution it has made to the growing anti-academies movement in England.

By the time this edition of *FORUM* is published the protracted battle to stop Islington Green School being closed and reopened as Lord Adonis's local academy may be over. Last January, despite overwhelming staff and considerable parental opposition, Islington's Schools Organisation Committee just about voted to support the proposed closure of the school and at the time of writing it may only be a borough planning committee which stands between Islington Green's continuation as an improving community comprehensive school and becoming a semi-privatised academy.[2]

Local anti-academies campaigners – predominantly teachers, school support staff, parents and students – have fought long and hard to defend the principle of democratically accountable, comprehensive, state education in the borough and at one point seemed close to victory. We will not concede defeat until the bulldozers move in.

Even if this happens our efforts will not have been in vain, not least because our achievements – alongside those of other local campaigns like those in Doncaster and Lambeth – have helped to inspire a wave of resistance to academies the length and breadth of the country and placed the issue firmly on the national political agenda. They have also contributed to the success of the Ant Academies Alliance in establishing itself as a focus and organising centre for the ongoing campaign to persuade the New Labour Government to declare a

moratorium on further academies and bring existing ones back under local authority control.

This article will recount the tale of the successes and failures of our battle to keep academies out of Islington (focusing on Islington Green School) and endeavour to draw some lessons from our experience which may be helpful both to other local campaigners and to the wider movement to defend comprehensive state education.[3]

### **The Blair Connection**

Islington Green School has always had a high profile. It supplied the kids who sang for free on the Pink Floyd's *The Wall* in the 1970s and two decades later was the school to which Tony and Cherie Blair refused to send their children.[4] In January 2005 it again featured in the national press when we were able to use the Freedom of Information Act to prove that Chris Woodhead had secretly overruled his HMIs to fail the school in 1997 (and thereby turned IGS into the school he said it was, as a third of the staff left within a year and a number of middle class parents withdrew their children from the school).

So it was less of a surprise at the beginning of 2004 when Blair's former chief speech-writer, Peter Hyman, arrived at the school in the unusual capacity of a teaching assistant on the senior management team with special responsibility for public relations. Hyman's principal reason for making such a drastic career change became apparent a year later when he published a book *1 OUT OF 10: from Downing Street vision to classroom reality*, describing his 'personal journey from the corridors of power to the corridors of an inner city school' (Hyman, 2005, p. ix). One of the first tasks assigned to him by his new 'leader' (our head teacher) on this journey of discovery was to facilitate the creation of twin-site 3-19 academy sponsored by an 'educational charity' called ARK to replace IGS and one of its feeder schools, Moreland Primary. To his consternation, Hyman's vividly recounted account of his efforts and the part played in the tale by arrogant ARK big shots (who could have walked straight off the set of the movie *Wall Street*) came to provide us with invaluable ammunition in our campaign to stop IGS and Moreland being taken over by 'fat cat' capitalists![5]

### **Who Were ARK?**

Immediately we were told about our head's academy project we set about finding out as much as we could about the proposed sponsors. We quickly discovered that ARK (Absolute Return for Kids) was – and still is – an educational charity run by a group of millionaire merchant bankers and hedge fund speculators which planned to sponsor seven academies in London. Their website claimed they have a 'wealth of experience'.[6]

What they do have is an experience of wealth. First on the list of ARK corporate sponsors was Aspect Capital whose Aspect Funds are 'organised as

exempted companies incorporated with limited liability in the Cayman Islands' and 'not overseen by the Caymans Island government or any other regulator'.[7] One of ARK's directors, Jennifer Moses and her husband Ron Beller ('Ben' in *1 OUT OF 10*) were famously robbed of £2 million by their secretary Joyti DeLaurey – the same amount a private sponsor is meant to pay in return for being given control of a £30 million academy – in 2004, without noticing it was missing. Ron's yearly wine bill one year, amounted apparently to £18,000, not a lot less than the annual income of families living on the Packington Estate, across the road from Islington Green School. Quite what this group of plutocrats had to offer Islington Green School was not immediately clear to those of us who worked there. If it was a relatively small amount of money, why could they not register their companies in the UK and pay an appropriate level of tax on their huge profits which the government could then pass on to inner city schools like IGS?

### Round One to Us

We used all this information in the leaflets that we produced for parents, local residents, teachers and other school workers across Islington and in press statements. We also stressed the detrimental impact academies would have on other schools, that they were not democratically accountable, that they had the power to change teachers' pay and conditions, that existing academies – even with their ability to exclude disadvantaged children – did not have an impressive record of success even in terms of exam success *and that they can be stopped*.

This last argument, given weight by brilliant victories against academies in Doncaster and Waltham Forest, was a crucial one for activists to win if they were to convince the teachers in threatened schools that there was any point in fighting. In April 2004 it seemed to many as if there really was no alternative to lying down under the Blairite privatisation steamroller, especially if it was, as we were told, the only way to get the money desperately needed to rebuild our dilapidated schools. In fact, at the first Islington Green NUT (National Union of Teachers) meeting which discussed the issue, abstentions heavily outweighed votes for and against opposing the school becoming an academy and it took a second meeting, better-informed arguments and a more considered motion in order to achieve an overwhelming decision to put the defence of comprehensive state education before what some teachers thought was in the school's short-term self interest.

Having won the Islington Green teachers (most of whom are in the NUT) to opposing the their school becoming an academy the key to a successful campaign was extending it as far as possible beyond the union, especially to parents at Moreland and other local primary schools who would be *unable* to get their kids admitted to the proposed spanking new 'state of the art' state-funded independent (grammar?) school.

The importance of this is apparent from the relative success of two major public meetings that we held. The first, in Islington Central Library, was called jointly by Islington NUT, UNISON, GMB and NAS-UWT and featured a range of local and national speakers most notably Mike Rosen and Steve Sinnott who made an effective speech in defence of comprehensive education. However, most of us present found it a bit dispiriting because the audience was small and only included one parent. (Not surprising really because, apart from a local press advert, we had only used the usual union network to advertise the event.)

The second meeting in April 2005, however, could not have been more different. First of all it was held in a community hall on a housing estate close to Islington Green and Moreland schools. Secondly, we prioritised building the meeting among parents. Every IGS parent was sent a letter about the meeting.

But perhaps more important in this respect were two other developments. The first was the establishment of the Islington Campaign Against Academies and the involvement in it of an active and determined group of parents who were fighting against plans for their successful Church of England community primary school, St Mary Magdalene, being turned into a 1,400 pupil 3-19 academy, sponsored by the C of E's London Diocesan Board.

The second followed the unanimous decision of the teachers and support staff at Moreland the day before the Easter holiday to oppose their school's participation in the academy project. Not only did they convince a number of their governors that, despite the dilapidated state of the Moreland buildings, becoming part of an academy was not in the school's best interest but also they persuaded most of their parents too. In the run up to the April meeting teachers from Moreland, assisted by NUT colleagues from the nearby Islington Sixth Form Centre, leafleted the surrounding estates with the result that a lot of local windows ended up displaying posters proclaiming: NO TO AN ACADEMY!

The meeting on 26 April was a great success and gained widespread coverage in the local press. About 80 people turned up including around 30 parents. After a number of inspiring and informative speeches and an enthusiastic discussion we agreed to escalate the campaign starting with a lobby outside Islington Town Hall of the Schools Organisation Committee in May which was discussing the planned closure of St Mary Magdalene so that it could become an academy.

The noisy and colourful lobby certainly achieved its objective. An article in the next day's *Islington Gazette* predicted, 'Plans to close a primary school to make way for a new city academy were expected to be given the go ahead last night.'<sup>[8]</sup> But the prediction turned out to be wrong. Following the protest and overwhelming opposition from those allowed to address the committee, one of its five composite groups (the schools group) voted against the closure proposal. Because the decision needed to be unanimous for it to pass, the proposal had to be passed to a school adjudicator. The next day's *Islington Tribune* headlined it 'BLOW FOR ACADEMY BID' and we were on a roll!<sup>[9]</sup>

Following the success of our lobby (which, incidentally, produced a placard with the slogan 'Hey! Bankers. Leave our kids alone' – and plans for a

remake of the Pink Floyd's 1970s hit) we began regular street petitioning in the Angel, Islington, shopping centre which had people queuing up to sign, including the write Nick Hornby. We intervened in every consultation meeting, including one in which we successfully challenged the impartiality of the St Mary Magdalene adjudicator who, we discovered, was employed by the company (3Es) managing the academy project! And we made sure that never a week went by without the local or national press covering our campaign.

The DfES booklet, *Academies Marketing Toolkit*, advises its lackeys,

Each group needs to be sold the Academy in a different way:

- different language/style;
- different media (newspaper, TV, poster)
- different messages/emphasis; and
- different communicator/ spokesperson.[10]

Notwithstanding the nauseating neo-liberal assumption that people had to be 'sold' rather than convinced of the benefits of city academies, this helped us realise we had to play our enemies at their own game, getting our message across in the media. Hence the planned remake by a band of IGS and Moreland teachers of 'The Wall' (whose original chorus had been sung by IGS pupils) and our decision to take the battle to ARK by protesting outside its Westminster HQ on 16 June dressed up in fat cat suits, in order to provide the press with a good 'photo-opportunity'.

This protest and the press coverage it got were enough to convince ARK and its playboy founder, Arpad Busson, that they would be better off spending their unwanted £2 million elsewhere. Six days later the *London Evening Standard* reported that following

a protest outside the charity's Westminster offices last week by parents and teachers against 'fat cats' taking over state schools ... Tony Blair's plan for city academies was dealt a major blow today after a millionaire backer pulled out of a London project.[11]

The final nail in the 3-19 academy's coffin was driven in shortly afterwards when it was announced that the Moreland governors had decided to pull out. Enormous credit is due to the school's parents, teachers and support staff for persuading them to come to this decision.

## Round 2

Our elation at keeping ARK's fat cat hands off our school was short-lived, however. No sooner had we recovered from celebrating our victory but Islington Council announced that they had lined up the Corporation of London and, later, City University as joint sponsors of a new academy project to replace IGS: this time an 11-19 school specialising in financial services. Now we had to pick ourselves up in order to fight round two of the battle.

On the face of it, the Corporation of London (a local authority, after all) and City University seemed less toxic than the hedge fund operators of ARK, even if they were, like ARK democratically unaccountable to the people of Islington. However, a little further research on the internet turned up some interesting facts.

First of all, the Corporation of London is not 'democratic' in the usually understood sense of the word. Its Court of Common Council is elected by residents, each having a single vote, and by businesses located in the City, who get one vote for every 50 employees. So the Corporation might be a local authority but it is one whose electors are, like the directors of ARK, predominantly fat cat finance capitalists! Its executive body, the Policy and Resources Committee is chaired by Michael Snyder, who told the *Islington Gazette* that 'The Corporation has centuries of experience in providing education'.<sup>[12]</sup> Snyder, too, has experience: of wealth. He is a senior partner in a firm of City accountants, Kingston Smith International which, according to its website, advises on 'international tax planning' (avoidance) and 'offshore structures' (tax havens).<sup>[13]</sup> Whatever the Corporation of London's qualifications to run an inner city secondary school (and they do not seem to have done a very well with the other academy they have sponsored, the City of London Academy in Southwark, which according to the *The Times Education Supplement*, was ordered by Ofsted last year to 'improve its teaching', they did not originally impress Tony Zoffis.<sup>[14]</sup> Or at least, this is a reasonable conclusion to draw from the report in the February 2005 issue of the *Local Government Chronicle* that Islington Council had been told by 'aides to the Prime Minister' to drop the Corporation in favour of ARK.<sup>[15]</sup>

Secondly, City University's £1 million contribution to the £2 joint sponsorship of what will be known as the City of London Academy Islington (or COLA-I) if it ever comes about is not to be paid by City University but an anonymous donor. This information only came to light during a chance conversation in a pub between a teacher and a member of the university's staff! A request to City University under the Freedom of Information Act to be provided with the name of the 'education/religious/charity/trust' providing the million pounds was turned down on the grounds that it has threatened to withhold the money if its identity is revealed. Having unsuccessfully appealed against the decision to withhold the secret donor's name, I subsequently made a formal complaint to the Information Commissioner and at the time of writing I am awaiting its outcome. The revelation about the secret donor stopped us from making the slightly unprincipled suggestion that City University should spend its money improving its 51st out of 119 position in the 2005 university league tables instead of using it to take over our school, but it is surely in the public interest to know who is funding our schools and why they are doing it – especially in light of the allegations which have been made about honours being offered in return for academy sponsorships. After all, what have they got to hide?

We also discovered shortly before breaking up for the Christmas 2005 holiday that Lord Adonis was due to 'sign off' the academy on behalf of the government. But Adonis lives not far from IGS and his children attend a nearby state primary school. Would they not stand to benefit from the millions of pounds of taxpayers' money due to be showered on the academy if it went ahead and Lord Adonis chose to send them there? Did Adonis not therefore have a conflict of interest? Once we managed to get the press asking these questions too Adonis beat a hasty retreat. Long before the Christmas decorations had been packed away the *Independent* was able to report:

A spokesman (sic) for the Department of Education and Skills denies that there is a conflict of interest, but says that to avoid any such perception, decisions on the school's future would be 'passed to another minister in the Department'. [16]

More pithily the *Islington Tribune* had previously carried a front page headline, 'ADONIS IS A GONNIS'. [17] It was another minor victory but it was an encouraging one.

The following May, Islington Council and the two sponsors distributed a glossy consultation booklet entitled *Aiming Higher*. The booklet informed local parents and other interested parties that the proposed academy would specialise in 'Business and Enterprise linked to financial services'. Not all of them were impressed. Julie Hunt, a parent of a child at an Islington Green feeder primary school, complained to the *Islington Tribune*, 'My children will be of working age soon enough and until that time I believe they should have the same right to a rounded education as should all children'. However, a couple of months later on 20 July – the last day of the summer term – the exclusively Liberal Democrat Islington Council Executive voted unanimously to issue a closure notice on the school despite a noisy and well-supported demonstration by teachers, support staff and parents outside the Town Hall and despite having nothing convincing to say in response to objectors at the meeting who argued that IGS was not a failing school and did not need closing.

Islington's Liberal Democrats have been typically Janus-faced throughout this whole business. James Kempton, Islington's Lib Dem leader, told a council meeting back in September 2005:

I have got two objections to academies – that they sit outside (Islington's) family of schools and they are governed by people who don't represent the local community.

This opposition to academies in principle, however, echoing statements regularly expressed by a string of national Lib Dem education spokespeople, such as Ed Davey and now Sarah Teather, has not stopped him from being an evangelical advocate of academies in Islington. [18] They are, he says, 'the only game in town' if Islington is to get funding from the government to rebuild the borough's other secondary school, ignoring the fact that councils with a bit

more backbone like Burnley and Barking and Dagenham, have refused to build academies and still received Building Schools for the Future funding.

Kempton and the Islington Liberal Democrats' double-dealing have gone even further. At the same time as he was putting his name to the foreword of the *Aiming Higher* booklet, which began, 'Welcome to what we believe will be the start of a bright new future for education in our community: the City of London Academy in Islington', the council was, according to the minutes of the borough's Schools Forum, objecting behind the scenes to regulations which allow academies to exclude pupils but keep the funding. This arrangement allows academies to select out 'difficult' students while forcing councils to foot the bill for educating them – to the detriment of the majority of Islington's children.[19]

Unfair exclusion arrangements were not the only way the academies programme have been damaging state education in Islington. Andrew Adonis, James Kempton and Ursula Wooley, Executive member for Childrens Services have lauded the four times oversubscription of the new St Mary Magdalene academy which opened in September 2007. However, far from proving the success of academies the unmet demand for places just goes to show how damaging and divisive they are. So in November 2006 the *Islington Gazette* could report that local estate agents were being inundated by callers enquiring about properties in the school's catchment area and that parents were having to 'fight' one another to get their children admitted to the school.[20] And with properties in the area *starting* around the £500,000 mark one can imagine the class of parents that came out best in the scrap. A few months later the *Tribune* headlined an article: 'Secondary feels heat from academy' and then went on to describe how applications by parents for 210 available places at Highbury Grove school – a mile away from St Mary Magdalene's – had 'slumped to only 100'.[21]

The predicted two-tier system of education encouraged by the establishment of academies already appears to be materialising in Islington.

The drive to turn Islington Green into an academy is hurting the school long before the die is cast. In July 2006 15 staff were made redundant in order to clear the school's financial deficit by the time it is proposed that it becomes an academy. Again, when head teacher Trevor Avere-Beeson left at short notice in September 2006, in circumstances which have never been fully explained, IGS was only allowed to appoint a temporary replacement who, for the first year in his post, divided his time between setting up an academy in his previous school in Peterborough and managing the transition to a proposed one in Islington. This inevitably created a feeling of uncertainty, instability and lack of direction in the school which wasn't helped when staff discovered that a governors finance committee meeting on 19th March 2007 had been told that CEA, the private company that runs Islington's schools for the council, was still insisting that the £226,000 deficit be cleared before IGS closed to become an academy – which could only be achieved by further staff reductions and possibly by cutting the pay of new teachers. The situation was so serious that



the Chair of the committee was asked to write to CEA explaining that there was 'no way to achieve cutbacks without harming IGS students' education'. [22] So much for academies benefiting under-privileged children in struggling inner-city schools!

### **The Endgame?**

Meanwhile, despite the continuing efforts of the Islington Campaign Against Academies, which included another fat-cat protest outside Michael Snyder's Kingston Smith International head office and the delivery of a peerage to the company's reception (Mr Snyder declined to receive it personally) and putting the school up for sale on eBay, the Corporation of London and City University proved harder obstacles to shift than ARK. Maybe this is because they are relatively large bureaucratic organisations which could not so easily change course or turn tail as an outfit run by a few mega-rich hedge-fund speculators. No one could deny that the campaign to save IGS and defend comprehensive state education in Islington had made a considerable impact both locally and, to some extent, nationally. [23] However, our opponents dismissed us as a vocal minority who were not representative of staff at the school, let alone the local community. So in October we decided to organise a secret ballot which asked teaching and non-teaching staff at the school (some of whom were also parents) if they agreed with IGS becoming an academy. The result was: No – 89; Yes – 3; Abstentions: 2.

The following Monday, Islington Green's governors, shocked at the level of staff opposition to the academy proposal, unanimously agreed to call on the council to suspend issuing formally the closure notice on the school, pending further discussion. Only two days later, in a brutal display of the fundamental lack of democracy inherent in the whole notion of academies, the council blatantly ignored the governors' request and published the closure notice in the local press.

When, soon after this, it was announced that a special meeting of Islington's Schools Organisation Committee had been called to consider the closure notice on 18th January, we swung into action. 3,000 copies of a glossy, four-page tabloid explaining why Islington Green should remain a state comprehensive school were produced and distributed around the borough, especially to parents of children at IGS and feeder primary schools. At the same time we distributed hundreds of addressed post cards objecting to the school closure proposal which parents could sign and send to the Director of Children's Services. A number of us submitted extended written objections and two of us – Julie Hunt, the local feeder primary school parent, quoted earlier and myself – asked to address the meeting. We also called a lobby of the SOC which was meeting at Islington Town Hall.

On the night itself, the lobby was noisy and well-attended. Inside the council chamber, Julie and I were able to speak at some length against the proposal to close IGS and open an academy in its place. Of particular help to us

was some research recently commissioned from Edinburgh University academic, Terry Wrigley, which conclusively proved that Islington Green, far from being a failing school, was outperforming every academy in the country bar one in terms of the number of students achieving five A\*-C GCSEs – and the one it did not outperform only managed a draw! The coup de grace for us was that IGS had only days earlier featured (in place of Gower Street) on the DfES London Challenge ‘tube map’ of the capital’s most improved schools ‘because because, like the other London schools featured, it has shown sustained improvement in GCSE results over the last three years and performs well in the contextual value added tables.’[24] The performance of the proponents of the academy was risible. They produced no convincing evidence that turning IGS into an academy would be of any benefit to it or its students whatsoever. Council Executive member Ursula Wooley’s main contribution to the debate was to claim that ‘only 50’ parents had objected to IGS being closed. When someone pointed out that this was 50 parents more than had supported the proposal she had little more to add.

So unconvincing were the arguments in favour of an academy that only two of the SOC’s five constituent groups voted to close the school. The other three (including the councillors group!) abstained. There was an uproar when the chair ruled that two out of five counted as ‘unanimous’ as it had to be to pass. However, it appears he was technically right about this: the legislation had been drawn up to make the path of those who wish to break up comprehensive state education as smooth as possible.

The stitch-up at the SOC was a major setback, even though most of us thought we had won a moral victory – no interested group outside the Downing Street–Lib Dem Council–sponsors axis wanted the academy: not the parents, not the teachers, not even the majority of the SOC. There was even a quickly suppressed playground demonstration of IGS students against it a few days before the SOC met.

Yet we have still not given up. In April we initiated, with NUT support, judicial review proceedings against an attempt to change the academy’s admissions criteria to the detriment of local children who lived close to the school but over the borough boundary in Hackney. The council, after initially dismissing our arguments, were forced in an out-of court settlement to revert to the original criteria and pay much of our costs.

Now, as mentioned in the introduction to this article, we are awaiting the outcome of a borough planning committee’s meeting which will be deliberating on a planning application which has to be agreed before the funding agreement for the academy can be signed and demolition and rebuilding works can begin. Staff at the school have made a number of objections to the application, not least that the accompanying Construction Statement envisages emergency evacuations of students being carried out via a ‘hoarded escape route’ between the school and the construction site. The statement does not suggest where this route will end up, given that the playgrounds where students currently assemble will no longer be available, due to building work. However, when pressed

recently at a staff meeting told us that students will be lined up in the street outside the school after designated staff have closed it down and stopped cars, tipper trucks and mopeds which often speed along it! Another objection is that the school will lose two gyms leaving only the sports hall and the playground for PE and, when necessary, examinations. As one PE teacher said at the meeting: 'what happens when it rains?'

All we can hope for is that the Planning Committee hold up the application and the delay and the spiralling cost causes someone to have second thoughts. I have just received a letter from the Information Commissioner informing me that he has begun the process of investigating my complaint against City University's refusal to name the secret donor and substantial article has recently appeared in the *Sunday Times* publicising the matter and situating it in the context of the current dodgy Labour Party donor scandal now being investigated by the police. Maybe our 'benefactor' will keep its promise and pull out as promised if it looks like its identity is going to be revealed.

Even if none of this happens and the rotten scheme is allowed to proceed, our battle to defend Islington Green School will not have been in vain. When we began our campaign few people even knew what academies were and it was possible to count the number of other campaigns on the fingers of one hand. The inaugural conference of the Anti-Academies Alliance in Birmingham in October 2005 – which the Islington campaign co-sponsored – attracted around 90 people representing nine local campaigns. A recall conference just over a year later in London attracted 350 people representing 30 campaigns. The Anti Academies Alliance has now established itself with the support of a number of MPs, a growing number of trades unions, various educational campaigning groups and numerous individuals determined to defend and extend the gains achieved by community comprehensive schools in the last 40 years. Last year the TUC voted to oppose academies and coordinate union campaigns of action against them and on 12 June 2007, Ken Purchase, MP for Wolverhampton North East, chaired an MPs Committee of Enquiry into Academies and Trust Schools in the Palace of Westminster.

Although the hopes of some people that Gordon Brown and Ed Balls might quietly drop the academies – or at least let existing ones wither on the vine – appear to have been dashed, the fact that the Downing Street recently announced a review of the programme is a sign that they acknowledge that all in the garden is not rosy and that many of Labour's traditional supporters, once they see the reality of what academies mean for working class communities, are beginning to turn against them.

Maybe the worm is beginning to turn and anti-academies campaigners will achieve what anti-grammar school campaigners achieved in the 1960 when they were able to establish at least the beginnings of a comprehensive system of schooling which aspired to provide a good school for *every child*. If this is the case, then the campaign to stop IGS from becoming an academy, whatever its outcome, will have been worthwhile.

## Notes

- [1] This is a revised and updated version of a previous article, 'Fighting Academies in Islington' which appeared in the *Socialist Education Journal*, 1 (2006), pp. 20-22.
- [2] As we shall see, the narrow SOC vote was a legal victory for the privatisers but not a moral one.
- [3] In September 2007 an academy was opened on the site of St Mary Magdalene primary school in the face of widespread parental opposition. For a time the two ant-academies campaigns came together under the banner of the Islington Campaign Against Academies, a fruitful development which I will refer to later.
- [4] Francis Beckett (2007, p. 100) suggests there might have been a connection between the Blairs rejecting Islington Green and Woodhead failing it, the latter perhaps, justifying the former.
- [5] Peter, to be fair to him, subsequently put his money where his mouth is and trained as a history teacher.
- [6] [http://www.arkonline.org/aboutteam\\_directors.html](http://www.arkonline.org/aboutteam_directors.html)
- [7] <http://www.aspectcapital.com/disclaimer2.asp>
- [8] *Islington Gazette*, 19 May 2005.
- [9] *Islington Tribune*, 20 May 2005.
- [10] DfES (2003) *Academies Marketing Toolkit*.
- [11] *London Evening Standard*, 22 June 2005.
- [12] *Islington Gazette*, 13 October 2005
- [13] [http://www.ksi.org/text\\_versions?Benefits.asp](http://www.ksi.org/text_versions?Benefits.asp)
- [14] *The Times Education Supplement*, 17 February 2006.
- [15] I am grateful to Francis Becket for drawing my attention to this point.
- [16] *Independent*, 29 December 2005.
- [17] *Islington Tribune*, 16 November 2007.
- [18] *Islington Tribune*, 16 September 2005.
- [19] *Islington Tribune*, 27 September 2007.
- [20] *Islington Gazette*, 2 November 2006.
- [21] *Islington Tribune*, 16 March 2007.
- [22] IGS Governors Finance Committee minutes, 19 March 2007.
- [23] We were even interviewed by a group of visiting academics and trade unionists from Japan who had been following our activities on the internet!
- [24] Email from Lyndsey Unwin (DfES London Challenge), 11 January 2006.

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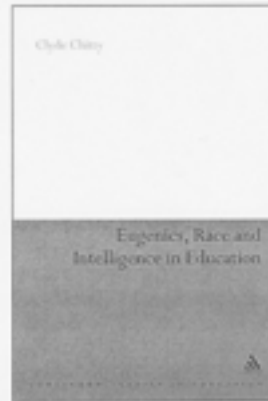
# EUGENICS, RACE AND INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION

PROFESSOR CLYDE CHITTY

For over a hundred years, psychologists and human biologists have been engaged in an often heated debate as to whether 'heredity' or 'environment' should be viewed as the determining factor in the creation of the human personality. For teachers and educationalists, the discussion has tended to focus on how the human mind functions and intellectual powers develop.

The controversy is often simply expressed in terms of 'nature' versus 'nurture,' with some scientists declaring that human beings are a product of a transaction between the two. To many, such enquiry and speculation is little more than futile and depressing. Yet it can surely be argued that at least with regard to the development of abilities, the 'nature' versus 'nurture' debate has had dire consequences for the education of millions of young people. Furthermore, we need to question why this debate has been pursued with such vigour in both Britain and America.

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