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HEAD FOR HEIGHTS



A HIGHGATE teenager is planning to jump 13,000ft through the sky to raise thousands of pounds for a secondary school in Africa.

Katherine Arnot, head girl at Francis Holland School in Regent's Park, will take part in a charity sky dive on March 26.

Currently in the Upper Sixth form, she plans to read French and Italian at Oxford University in October.

"I am so excited about the jump," she said. "I am sure we will all be a little nervous but it is such a worthwhile cause."

Francis Holland pupils are no newcomers to skydiving as two years ago they raised

more than £7,000 in another sky dive. All funds will go towards the building of classrooms and the science block at St Amadeus School in Tanzania.

In the Autumn, a trip is planned for pupils from Francis Holland to visit Moshi and offer hands-on practical help. They will be painting classrooms, landscape gardening and offering teaching assistance in sport, arts and music. They will also be visiting the orphanages from which many of the future students to St Amédeus will come.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Katherine can do so at: www.justgiving.com/

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Parents say new

Charlotte Newton
Education Reporter

OPENING a second free school in Hampstead would save taxpayers money and create a stimulating environment for children, one of the founders claims.

Harriet Nowell-Smith, who lives in Belsize Lane, is spearheading the project to open a secular, state-funded primary school which would be free from local authority control. If the government gives the scheme the green light, it will be the second free school to open in Hampstead, as members of Luke's Church are opening a primary school in Kidderpore Avenue in September 2011.

Ms Nowell-Smith told the Ham&High that she was baffled by Camden Council's "strangely negative" reaction to parents' proposal.

In an article published in the Ham&High last week, Labour finance boss, Theo Blackwell, questioned whether creating a "boutique" primary school in Hampstead was in the wider interests of children in Camden and the best use of state funds.

"I'm not sure what Theo Blackwell meant by saying it would be a 'boutique' school," Ms-Nowell-Smith said. "It would be a non-selective school for everyone in the area. It's a mixed area; it has some rich people but it also has council properties."

"The idea that free schools are about wealthy parents skimming off state money to create schools for their children is crazy, because state schools are better when they are mixed and don't just educate the children of the poor. We would