



Church Road, Bexleyheath DA7 4DG

Tel: **020 8303 2175**

Fax: 020 8301 1635

Email: admin@upland.bexley.sch.uk

www.upland.bexley.sch.uk

Head Teacher: **Ms V Sengupta**

BA Hons, PGCE, NPQH

27 June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Upland Primary School – BBC Two Documentary Series

The BBC Current Affairs Department is making a three-part observational documentary series about schools in an area that offers selective education. Each episode will be 60 minutes in duration and broadcast on BBC Two in 2018. Working title: *The Battle for Britain's Schools*

The education system and school selection is often the subject of debate and we would like to make a human interest series that looks beyond headlines and statistics to the personal stories of students and parents navigating the transition from primary to secondary school and the stories of teachers assisting that transition. The series will also follow stories of progress within each school, the examination process including the 11+ and explore the innovative ways teachers and school management adapt to changes within the education system during a time of shrinking budgets.

Among the many schools that we considered, Upland Primary School stood out for its excellent results, progress and inclusive and inspiring teaching environment. The series will be made in full collaboration with the school covering different aspects of school life: from the Year 6 leavers to life in sixth form at secondary school, the teachers' roles and perspectives within the school, and how these schools are run day to day.

We would like to spend the final weeks of this summer term researching the series; observing classes, meeting teachers, students, parents and getting to know the schools. This time would also be an opportunity for the school community and parents to ask us more about the series and the process of filming.

Filming will start properly in September and continue through the Autumn and Spring terms until the end of March. There will be three filming teams, each consisting of a director, who operates a small handheld camera, and producer, who records sound. These pairs are experienced observational documentary makers and used to filming in sensitive environments, such as schools and hospitals, in an unobtrusive way. Filming within schools will be agreed on a day by day basis with specific classrooms and areas planned in advance to ensure minimal disruption.

Although filming will be focused on a number of students across the school – for these students we will be seeking prior written consent from parents and carers - it is inevitable that in the background of the normal school routine we will see other students.

If for any reason you do not wish for your son/daughter to appear in the series please contact me, Natasha Cox – Producer - either by email (natasha.cox@bbc.co.uk) or call directly on 07826 543 493 by 7th July 2017, and we can ensure that your child is not included in the series. If you are happy for your child to be filmed there is no need to do anything.

We hope that this will be an exciting and valuable experience for all involved and we are very much looking forward to getting to know the Upland School community.

With best wishes from all of us on the team,

Natasha Cox
Producer

