

## *'Essinger Way'*

*By Henny Shotter*



This road is situated in the development 'Liberty View' off Old Ashford Road. It is named after the 'gutsy' and much-loved Anna Essinger. She created a home and school for Jewish refugee children who had to flee Nazi Germany.

The school was 2 miles out of Lenham, in Otterden, in Bunce Court on Bunce Court Road.

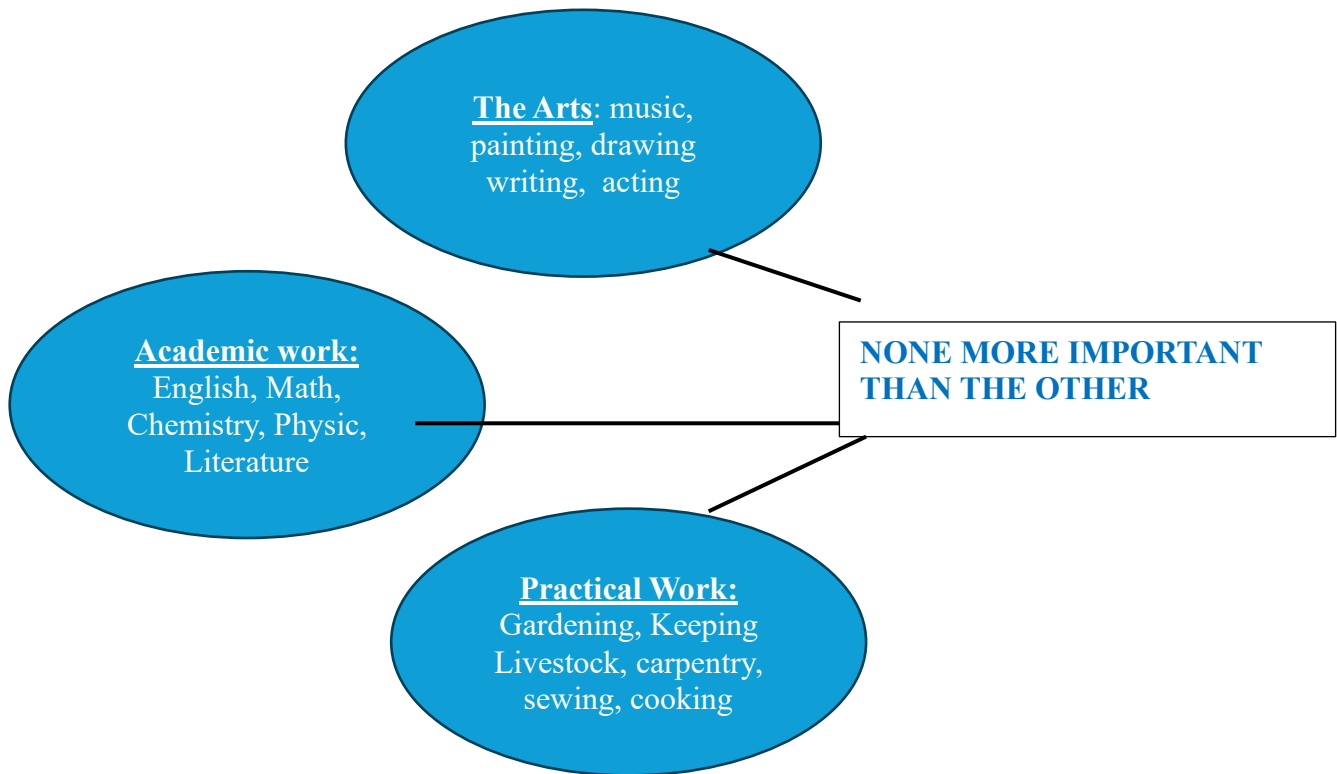
Anna Essinger, who was of Jewish, descend but influenced by Quakerism ran her own school in Herrlingen, near Ulm in Germany. When Hitler got into power in 1933, she recognised that her school and her modern educational principles could not flourish in Germany. With the agreement of the parents, she evacuated her school in all secrecy to Kent. Bunce Court became home, school and refuge for ca 900 children in the time

between 1933 and 1960.

**'Love one another and if you can't do that, respect one another'!** Anna Essinger



## Educational principles were similar to Montessori principles



### Many of the pupils became very successful:

**Frank Auerbach** British painter

**Leslie Brent** British Immunologist ( shared Nobel Price)

**Frank George** American Architect

**Gerard Hoffnung** British humourist

**Harold Jackson** Guardian journalist

**Werner Loval** Israeli Real Estate Founder

**Frank Marcus** British Playwright

**Anne-Marie Meyer** historian and essayist

**Peter Morley** British film maker and television produce ( BAFTA for documentary of Churchill's funeral)

**Helmut Sonnenfeldt** American Foreign Policy advisor under Henry Kissinger

For many years the Julia and George Miller who live in the central section of Bunce Court hosted re-unions for the former pupils.

Richard D.W. Sonnenfeld

Martin Lubowski

I feel I am walking  
on Holy Ground  
whenever I visit  
Bunce Court

While I was there and  
forever after, Bunce  
Court has been my  
Shangri-La

More on the topic:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna\\_Essinger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Essinger)

and highly recommended the book:

- *The School That Escaped the Nazis*, by Deborah Cadbury, New York: Public Affairs, 2022.

