



A 'cut' above the rest! New St Anne's Academy underway

Work on building the new St Anne's Academy in Middleton is well underway and currently ahead of schedule. Principal Eric Jackson joined pupils, council staff, contractors and representatives from the Diocese of Manchester in April 2009, for a turf-cutting ceremony to celebrate the next stage of the £17.6 million development.



INSPIRING START: *Mark Davis, the Bishop of Middleton, alongside pupils, Principal Eric Jackson, Yasin Khan from RMBC & Anthony Dillon from Willmott Dixon, and guests from the Manchester Diocese, during the Turf Cutting Ceremony.*

Mark Davis, the Bishop of Middleton, who was given the task of cutting the first section of turf, said: *"To reach this stage so quickly has taken a huge amount of work and dedication. Now the project is becoming a reality, and everything is taking shape. For everyone associated with the Academy, and the community, this is a great occasion."*

St Anne's Principal Eric Jackson said: *"It is important to mark this significant point in the development of St Anne's Academy. The very best is what we aspire to, and I am excited that this is really happening. Children need inspirational facilities and I'm delighted we are investing in our youngsters."*

Sue Brown, Head of Schools Service at Rochdale Borough Council said: *"This project is bringing some of the most innovative and inspiring facilities in the country to the borough. It was really exciting to see pupils participating in the event - at the end of the day; it's their future we are looking at."*

Yasin Khan Programme Manager at Rochdale Borough Council said, *"This development is part of the Building Schools for the Future programme, which will see a radical transformation of secondary education in the borough. Developers Willmott Dixon have been on site since January 2009. The foundations & the steel frame are now complete. The old fashioned layout, typical of many traditional schools will be a thing of the past. The academy will have a modern layout built to maximise natural daylight with pupils needs firmly in mind. Developers Willmott Dixon are making sure that much of the sub-contract work is done by local companies. So far £7m of work has been given to firms within a 15 mile radius."* Progress across the St Anne's Academy site has been continuing at a steady pace. The steel structure was completed in mid June. The next large installation will be the start of the cladding of the building envelope.



**For more information on the St Anne's Academy, please contact Yasin Khan on 01706 925496
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Primary Capital Programme Update

Rochdale's Primary School Strategy for Change has now been approved by government ministers. This means that funding of £6.188 million for 2010-11 is now secure, in addition to agreed funding for 2009-10 of £3.8 million. This money will now be used in conjunction with Rochdale's standard capital allocations, to remodel a number of our highest priority primary schools to provide good quality accommodation, suitable for the needs of the modern curriculum.

The key projects agreed to start this year are St. Mary's RC Langley, Harwood Park CP in Heywood, Kentmere CP in Rochdale. The next tranche of the

programme will include Little Heaton CEP in Middleton, Deeplish CP in Rochdale, with further schemes to be scheduled in by the Diocese for Holy Family RCP Rochdale, St. John's RC Rochdale and St Margaret's CEP in Heywood. Planning has already started for the 2 largest projects of the agreed programme, to replace Heybrook and Lowerplace Primary Schools, which should commence 2010/2011 to provide a new school facility for both to meet the demands of a 21st Century curriculum, in particular around personalised learning and wider use of ICT across the curriculum. All schemes planned include proposals for flexible spaces and dual use facilities to allow development of innovative teaching styles.

The initiative is aimed at putting schools closer to their communities by ensuring there are facilities for extended services available in each area. Schools that do not benefit directly from the Primary Capital Programme will continue to receive funding via the devolved programme, and where appropriate, the targeted capital fund. Voluntary aided schools are eligible for support through the programme, and their governing bodies are responsible for contributing 10% of the overall cost.

Visits to BSF Schools

Secondary School Headteachers and other Authority representatives visited schools built and operated by the shortlisted bid consortiums in June. Galliford Try arranged a visit to Perry Beeches Secondary School in Birmingham. The school is part of a campus which also includes primary, nursery and visually impaired schools. Galliford Try built the school and manage the FM facilities through a PFI contract. The Headteacher of Perry Beeches kindly hosted the day, which included a presentation on how the FM helpdesk works; a tour of the school and a presentation from the Head on the contributions Galliford Try FM had made in terms of supporting the school operations. Inspiredspaces arranged a visit to 2 schools in Redcar and Cleveland; 1 operational PFI school (Gillbrook Technology College) and a BSF sample school under construction (Mortimer Community College) due to be completed in October this year.

There was also a visit to Inspiredspaces offices to demonstrate how Inspiredspaces currently worked with the Authority and Schools, through their Local Educational Partnership to deliver the South Tyneside and Gateshead BSF Project (STAG). Robin Lonsdale, Head Teacher at Falinge Park High School, one of the attendees on the visit commented

"Reading about B.S.F schools works for some people, but there are others (like me) who need to walk the corridors and find out the issues for ourselves. What Headteachers need to know is "what will be the impact on teaching and learning in my school." The two days were invaluable in that they showed that the impact of the buildings is largely defined by the people who work in them! We saw lots of good practice-and some not so good. Our job now is to pick and choose what we run with into our own new brave post BSF world."

Head teachers can access further information about the visit and view photographs from the school visits on the 4projects website.



Head teacher and Authority staff at Inspiredspaces construction offices, Mortimer Community College

Building schools for the future

There has been some minor slippage in the delivery timetable over the last 3 months. We have lost three weeks on the projected timetable.

The specific challenges over the period have been:-

- Significant redesign of the two sample projects at Hollingworth and Siddal Moor
- A worsening of the terms on which banks are prepared to lend monies to fund PFI projects
- The physical demands of negotiating and reviewing the details of each bid which include the structure, staffing and governance of the Local Education Partnership, the ICT managed service offer, the design and technical proposals/construction programmes, other financial and legal issues.

Status of Procurement

As the bulletin is drafted we expect to close dialogue and request final bids during the first week in July. This will allow the selection of the preferred bidder early August. Financial close can still be achieved in 2009 with a start on site in January 2010.

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