



Welcome!

Summer Term 2011

With site works now well under way at the first two BSF schools in Fenland and design development in progress at others, we thought a regular newsletter would be a good way to keep you up to date with developments across the range of activities with which the BSF schools are now engaged.

This is the first of what is intended to be a termly newsletter for staff and governors in the Fenland BSF schools. We hope you will find this useful. We would also be very pleased to receive your feedback and any suggestions you have for topics to include in future editions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The BSF Team

The story so far.....

Neale-Wade Community College



Foundation Stone laid at Neale Wade as Building Phase begins

Early in the Autumn 2010 term Mr Tim Hitch, the Principal, together with a number of students laid the first part of the foundations for the new Neale Wade Community College. These

foundations are large concrete pads which will support the whole building.

Changes were first seen on the Neale Wade site before the summer holidays as the extensive temporary accommodation began to arrive for assembly. Once the summer term was completed, and resources and equipment had been transferred, this was rapidly followed by the demolition of around one third of the original school, including areas for English, Maths, and the sixth form. A potentially noisy and dusty process was completed on time and with the minimum of disruption. The staff are delighted with the quality of these temporary classrooms: "they are brilliant – substantial, light and airy, with a solid feel" said Craig D'Cunha, Vice Principal, and many staff report that they are better than the old rooms they have left. The most crucial aspect, as Craig points out, is that teaching and learning has not been affected in any way by the building process so far, although

he acknowledges that students have had to walk a bit further to some lessons.



To mitigate any potential disruption, Galliford Try meet with school representatives on a regular basis to ensure there is consistent communication on the progress and nature of the works. Site visits have been organised and the construction students have already seen the works at first hand to view real construction techniques as well as providing health and safety briefings to students. As Craig D’Cunha points out “it’s been a really positive experience so far, and we can’t wait to see the building progressing to completion”.

Staff at the school are now looking forward to moving into the completed first phase of the building at the end of the summer holidays. This will include a new learning resource centre and dining space.



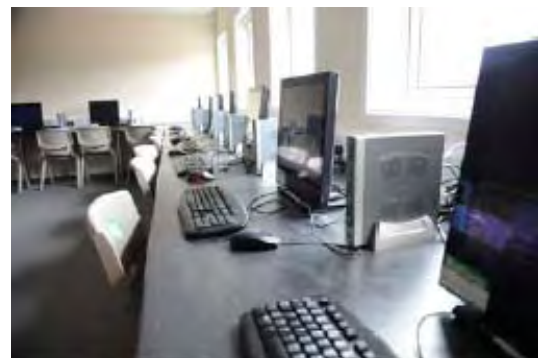
Building work begins at Thomas Clarkson

Looking at the building site at Thomas Clarkson Community College, you can now see the scale of the new buildings as the structure takes shape and rises rapidly from the ground. Most of the building is taking place on an area which was previously playing field, and so as yet this has

had no impact on learning and student movement around the school. According to Gerwyn Williams (Head of Pankhurst Learning Community), students watched in amazement as piling rigs drilled to a depth of 15m in some places as the new building materialised. “They can see the three areas of the building which will house the new ‘learning communities’, and are keen to know whereabouts they will be” reports Gerwyn. Meanwhile staff are pleased that the school has carried on as normal, and are impressed with the ways that the contractor, Kier, has worked with them to ensure there has been no disruption to the daily life of the school.



At the beginning of the year the school took ownership of some new netball courts paving the way for some temporary classrooms to be laid on top of the original courts. Part of the Corporation Road building remains in use, but much is now undergoing refurbishment to ensure it can join seamlessly on to the new building as it grows.



The school expects their new school to ‘bear fruit’ in more ways than one. Students have

been visiting orchards to identify some of the species they hope to grow in their new orchard to be established on site. This will begin with apples, but it is hoped that pears and plums might be grown in future.



Maureen Strudwick, Principal commented “The students and staff are now becoming very excited about our new school and working alongside the contractors to ensure that we are ready to make the transition next January. Team TC has taken on a wider brief and is once again, rising the to occasion, in every sense.”

What about Fenland Junction Pupil Referral Unit?

This school remains a key part of the Fenland BSF Project. A review of Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) provision is currently under way. Once the outcomes of this review are known, we look forward to BSF funding providing a much needed new facility to improve the opportunities and learning for all the students.

Designs Take Shape at Phase 2 Schools

An intensive yet exciting Design Development process has been taking place since January with the three phase 2 schools, Cromwell Community College in Chatteris, Meadowgate Special School in Wisbech, and Sir Harry Smith Community College in Whittlesey. This has resulted in a range of exciting plans for the redevelopment of each site, which recently went on display at public consultation events held at each of the schools.

Each design meeting has brought together school and in some cases Governor representatives together with the Local Authority, Equitix, the team of architects, and Kier Eastern, to review how the developing designs support the school priorities. In all cases these designs have reflected the need for a range of extra learning spaces to meet the needs of the growing student numbers in each school, together with resolving various issues associated with the condition of the buildings, and meeting the particular priorities of the school.

The process in fact started during the autumn term, with early workshops designed to raise awareness, promote joint working, and help the design team to really understand not only the school vision, but also how each school works and operates on a daily basis. As part of this, each team of architects spent time in each school to observe how the current buildings work for the school, and how students move around the buildings and site.

Meadowgate School

In November, representatives from Meadowgate, Kier, and Fielden & Mawson architects visited three special schools in Doncaster which have been newly rebuilt or extended. This gave the school a good opportunity to explore the good, and in some cases not so good features of these new buildings, and how they work for their students and staff.



Following on from these visits staff at Meadowgate have now had the opportunity to discuss with architects designs for their own school.

The developing plans for **Meadowgate School** include new buildings at both the front and rear of the school, together with an improved arrangement for drop off of students from buses and minibuses, and increased on site car parking. The new buildings will include specialist rooms for Art, Science and Food Technology, together with a new reception, Hall, Library and ICT facilities. New classrooms will be provided to meet the needs of the growing student body, including new post 16 accommodation. Further highlights of the project will include a hydrotherapy pool, which will mean no more trips to Kings Lynn to use such a facility, and a Lifeskills Centre.



Jackie McPherson, Headteacher at the school said, *"The developing plans for Meadowgate present exciting opportunities for our youngsters to learn in first class facilities which are welcoming, accessible and innovative, and will provide additional accommodation for us to expand our provision and more effectively meet the needs of our students. We have been delighted at the way the Design Team have listened to our ideas, and have responded with plans which will enhance all that we do, and enable us to continue to provide a first class education in our new and refurbished facilities."*

Sir Harry Smith Community College

During the Autumn term Sir Harry Smith visited an outstanding London school which had been rebuilt and remodelled under BSF. This was of particular interest to them since the specialist Science school has had a phased building programme over a two year period, but has continued to see an improvement in results, something which Sir Harry are keen to ensure is a feature of their project.

The developing plans for **Sir Harry Smith Community College** include a new central dining facility, new Drama and Learning Support facilities, and a new school reception and waiting area. Science accommodation will be considerably enhanced, as will Art, Vocational and Design Technology accommodation. Outside, more car parking spaces will be provided, the bus drop-off arrangement will be made safer and more efficient, and social and sporting facilities for students and the community will be enhanced. Significant funding will be used to improve the condition of some of the existing buildings, especially by improving the heating, electrical and ventilation systems, together with the internal finishes.

Jonathan Digby Principal reported that *"I have been delighted with the whole design development process so far, with the architects and builders working closely with the school. We have been excited to see the final designs, which reflect both the needs and aspirations of the school, and will enable us to create an exciting future for Sir Harry Smith Community College"*



Cromwell Community College

The developing plans for **Cromwell Community College** include new ICT and Design Technology facilities, and a new Sports Hall, together with associated changing facilities. New dining is to be provided in the remodelled sports hall, with a mezzanine floor providing dining, social and study facilities for post 16 students. A new bus drop-off area and additional car parking will be provided to resolve the congestion situation at the front of the school. The two storey area at the front of the school will be completely remodelled to provide a new spacious reception and visitor waiting area, and facilities for Science, Art, and Learning Support will be considerably enhanced.

Jed Roberts, Principal said: *“BSF is a fantastic opportunity to provide our community with enhanced learning opportunities and facilities equal to the challenges of the 21st Century. The pupils are buzzing with the possibilities. We appreciate all the efforts made to ensure that this project went ahead in Fenland.”*



Of particular interest to the community has been the development of plans for a Leisure Suite which is being funded by both Chatteris Town Council and Fenland District Council

Public View the Proposals

Recent public consultation events have been held in Whittlesey (Sir Harry Smith Community College), Chatteris (Cromwell Community College) and Wisbech (Meadowgate School) to provide the opportunity for parents, local residents and the wider community to examine the proposals, question the Design Team, and contribute to the process, to ensure their views have been taken into account. The events attracted a considerable number of people over the three sessions and have helped us to ensure all views have been considered as we move towards applying for planning permission.



Consultation at Cromwell Community College



Consultation at Meadowgate School

ICT Partner - Dell

As part of the BSF project, Dell were chosen to provide ICT services to the BSF schools, including new infrastructure (cutting edge cabling and wireless network), new equipment (including desktop, laptop, and ultra mobile PCs, and telephony) a new Learning Platform, and a managed ICT service.

Behind the Scenes

One of the aims of moving to a managed ICT Service, is that the technology is simple to use and there when you need it – like electricity or water – and that if it stops working then someone fixes it, if possible before you even know there is a problem. However, that simplicity at the front is only made possible by complexity at the back. Though you may never see it there will be a raft of cutting edge technology hidden away behind the scenes.

What will the future Learning Platform look like?



Two months to Learning Platform Take Off

In the Summer the first fruit of the programme will be available for all six Fenland BSF schools to begin exploring.

Throughout May and June 2010 the Dell team visited Fenland from their bases in Scotland and Southern Ireland for a series of scoping workshops with representatives of each of your schools. They explored the detailed requirements for a wide range of the required learning platform components - from creating and delivering online courses and publishing

individual student e-portfolios to assessing work and communicating through email, chatrooms, forums, and SMS. In July students, parents, governors and staff all had input into a session to comment on the initial designs for the new system.

As a result of all that work, the first version of the learning platform will be ready for user testing in the Summer term. This will involve a cross-section of people from each of your schools. At the same time each school is beginning to plan how it will introduce the new learning platform for real, so that everyone can get their hands on it.

What will the learning platform do for me?

In each issue we will describe one aspect of the new learning platform to give you an idea of what it can do.

The student dashboard

This is your personal home page. From here you can get to everything else the system offers. It will give you a snapshot of your recent activities – your latest emails, people you've contacted recently, what you and your friends are doing, blogs or news sites that you want to link with.

You can receive alerts when there is a message or reminder to do something – get your homework in maybe, or remember that the school is closed next Wednesday (just an example – it's probably not really!). You can see which assignments you have to complete and when. You can keep your own calendar or look up your class timetable.

The progress section will give you a snapshot of how well you are doing in each subject and let you see what marks your teachers have given you. If you want to find out how often you've missed school or how good your behaviour has been, then you can do that too.

And if you are not a student, don't worry, everyone gets a personal dashboard, but the information may be a little different if you are a parent or work in the school.

Meet the BSF Team



Back Row: Eamonn Rogan, Phil Nash, Leon Cripps
 Front Row: Alan Kippax, Liz Waring

Alan Kippax Tel: 01223 699266 Email: alan.kippax@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	BSF Programme Director <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Direction • Schools and Member interface
Phil Nash Tel: 01223 699263 Email: phil.nash@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	BSF Education Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools interface • Transformation adviser
Eamonn Rogan Tel: 01223 699264 Email: eamonn.rogan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	BSF Programme Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Management • Technical input to new project approval process
Liz Waring Tel: 01223 699265 Email: liz.waring@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Project Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office manager • Communications
Leon Cripps Tel: 01223 714540 Email: leon.cripps@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Project Manager (ICT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT Contract Manager • ICT input to new project approval process

What is the LEP?

As part of Cambridgeshire’s BSF Programme it was decided very early on to form a LEP (Local Education Partnership) to manage the work generated through BSF funding. The LEP was established in May 2010 and takes responsibility for developing projects, ensuring performance, health and safety and compliance with diversity and equal opportunities.

The LEP is a registered company (Cambridgeshire Learning Community Partnership Ltd.) and forms a Board of Directors made up of representatives from Equitix (Private Partner), BSFI (Building Schools for the Future Investment – Central Government) and Cambridgeshire County Council

School for Africa

Further to Cambridgeshire County Council's BSF project being signed earlier last year, construction work has been progressing at some considerable pace on the Thomas Clarkson Community College and the Neale-Wade Community College. Equitix Ltd, Deloitte and Touche and CMS Cameron McKenna, all members of the consortium that brought this deal to financial close, as well as Evercore Partners; have once again joined forces and are working with both schools in Cambridgeshire to create a link with a school in Kenya. We hope that the children in our UK schools will benefit from a broadened education, learning about environmental sustainability and conservation, amongst other topics as well as the ability to contribute in their own way to enhance the lives and education of the children in Kenya.

Equitix arranged a PPP industry drinks evening on 8th December in London to raise money to build additional classrooms at the school in Kenya and also to raise awareness for the growing importance and need for education in any country.