

Falmer Academy

NEWSLETTER

December 08

Major milestones reached in development of Academy

Major milestones have been reached in the development of the Falmer Academy.

The Funding Agreement has now been signed by the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families. This gives approval for the Sponsor and Project Team to move on to preparing the Academy for opening in September 2010. In addition the Outline Business Case for the new Academy building on the current High School site has also been given the go ahead. A building contractor can now be appointed with construction planned to start in the Summer.

Academy sponsor Rod Aldridge, from The Aldridge Foundation said:

'This is a major landmark in the development of the Academy and I am delighted that we can now move forward to create a great place of learning for young people in the area. It will have first class

facilities and will offer a rich and stimulating curriculum, including the specialisms of Entrepreneurship and Sport.'

Year 8 student Elle Hargie said:

'I feel really excited about the whole thing. It makes me feel special and privileged that we are going to get the Academy. I am looking forward to brand new building and equipment. I think we will get better grades if we've got state of the art equipment and facilities for our lessons.'

Councillor Vanessa Brown, Cabinet member for Children and Young People, said:

'We are delighted that progress can now be made in developing the new Academy. It represents a major addition to the family of schools in Brighton and Hove and is a great opportunity for generations of young people who will attend it.'

Students prove their star quality at Academy film premiere

Year 7 and 8 students have become the first to see a new film made by their classmates about the Academy. At a specially arranged premiere – attended by Academy sponsor Rod Aldridge – students heard more about the proposals and learnt also what those taking part in the film would like to see at the new Academy.

Suggestions included improved and expanded drama and sports facilities, a smart new uniform and a 'massive' stained glass window of the Falmer bird at the entrance to the new school. One student said simply that she would like parents to look at the new school and say, 'I'll send my kids there.'

At the end of the screening the stars of the show were presented with Oscars for their efforts.



Rod Aldridge presenting an Oscar to Drama teacher Miss Banks for directing the film.

Sponsor Rod Aldridge also took the opportunity to thank students for their enthusiasm about the future and to pledge that he would do everything he could to ensure their new Academy offered every student a chance to shine.

You can watch the students' film by logging onto the Academy website at www.proposedfalmeracademy.org.uk

Visit the website for the latest news and updates about the proposed Falmer Academy
www.proposedfalmeracademy.org or email info@proposedfalmeracademy.org

Falmer students go on fact finding visit

A group of Year 8 Falmer High students, staff, governors and representatives from Brighton and Hove Council have visited The City Academy, Southwark, in south London.

The visit was designed to show what an Academy is like and the new opportunities it presents. Year 8 students at The City Academy, Southwark, twinned with the Falmer group to give them a guided tour including areas like the Sports Hall, Gym and Design Technology facilities.



Falmer High students Elle Hargie, Keira Beck and Jonah Beckford learn about life in an Academy



Local organisations back Academy

A wide range of academic, sporting and other local supporters and partners are backing the new Academy and many will be working alongside it to ensure that students are offered a truly first-class education and lots of extra-curricular activities.

Our supporters and partners include the University of Sussex, Brighton University, Sussex County Cricket Club, Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, Action for Bevendean Community, East Brighton New Deal for Communities and the Learning and Skills Council.

Professor Paul Layzell, Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Sussex says, 'The University of Sussex is pleased to support the development of an Academy. We will be able to offer expertise and advice in areas such as the development of the science curriculum and the area of entrepreneurship. The proposals for a sixth form at the Academy will strengthen our links around access to higher education for students.'

Tim Marks, Community Liaison Officer for Sussex County Cricket Club says, 'Sussex County Cricket Club is committed to working with Falmer Academy. It is a great opportunity for young people who live in the area. We believe that our partnership will enhance the sporting experience of students and that it will complement the Sports specialism.'

Students pin their hopes on a new school

In the weeks leading up to half term students were asked to share their thoughts about what the new Academy should look like and what it should offer.

A special Wish Wall was created in the school library and wish slips made available to anyone who wanted to post up a wish.

The wishes are currently being collated by the Falmer Academy team who will then feed back to students about if and how those wishes can be taken forward into the next stage of the Academy plans.

Lorraine O'Reilly, project director, said: 'It's clear that getting students involved in the planning of their new Academy is crucial. We're still working through the students' wish slips and are seeing that things like uniforms and new sports facilities carry real importance for them.'

'We'll continue to work with students and others in this way so that when the new Academy opens in 2010 it will be a place they feel really belongs to them.'

Check the proposed Falmer Academy website for updates.

www.proposedfalmeracademy.org

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