

Falmer Academy

NEWSLETTER

December 09

Work starts on Brighton & Hove's new £28m Academy

Students and staff from Falmer High School helped celebrate the start of construction work on the new £28m Academy building. They joined the Academy's sponsor Rod Aldridge, Councillor Vanessa Brown, Brighton & Hove City Council Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Principal Designate Phil Hogg and Colin Baker director of Kier Longley at a turf cutting ceremony on the site in Lewes Road. The new building is due to be completed by 2011 and will replace the existing Falmer High School with a modern building and facilities.

Rod Aldridge, who is a Brighton-born successful entrepreneur, said: 'I am personally committed to supporting young people and the local community so I'm delighted to be able to give something back to my home town by sponsoring this Academy. The new building will, I believe, provide students with an inspirational learning environment and the state-of-the-art ICT, sport and entrepreneurship facilities, which will enable them to build on the school's past achievements.'

Included within the building's design are entrepreneurship pods, which students, local people and community groups can use to start enterprises and incubate ideas. In addition, entrepreneurship will be embedded in the curriculum with the aim of instilling a mindset among students that will give them the skills to lead successful lives.

Councillor Vanessa Brown, Brighton & Hove City Council Cabinet Member for Children and Young People said: 'I'm delighted to officially mark the start of work on the new Falmer Academy on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council. This exciting project will bring a huge boost to the experience of



Photography by Paul Noble

Falmer school children and the wider local community'

Colin Baker, Director at Kier Longley commented: 'This will be a first class Academy for students and teachers alike and we are excited about undertaking such a prestigious project'

Students will be able to move into part of the new building when the Academy officially opens in September 2010.

Message from the Principal Designate



It was good to meet parents at the Open Evening for the new Academy and to see so many people at a very well attended event. Our new prospectus setting out the vision for the Academy has given everyone a sense of what the new school will offer young people who attend it, with a particular focus on Entrepreneurship and Sport. We are now making plans for the first year of its life from September 2010 and many of you will be aware that the current Falmer High School will become

an Academy in time to welcome Year 7 students next autumn.

Some of my time has been spent visiting local primary schools, Bevendean, Coombe Road, Moulsecoomb and Coldean. It has been good getting to know the staff and students. By building relationships with Years 5 and 6 students we can help ensure a smooth move up to the Academy when they

join us. The Academy team wants to ensure more people are involved as we go forward this year.

It is in this spirit that I would like to extend an invitation for more people to come forward to take part in the Parents' Forum, which started meeting before the summer holidays and which meets every month. There is a story in this newsletter about the Forum. So far we have discussed the proposed new curriculum and school day and kept parents up to date with the building programme.

In the new year we will be discussing the new uniform, changes to the existing buildings, Y9 options, and plans for the start to the new Academy. Please feel free to join us and have your say.

I hope to meet many more of you in the coming months.

Phil Hogg

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

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Students look forward to Academy life



Year 9 student Jonah Beckford declares himself 'almost 100 per cent sure' that the new Academy will improve his enjoyment of school. Overall he says the Academy will be 'better, bigger, with more equipment.'

Megan Strange (pictured left), also in Year 9, is hopeful that the Academy will enable all students to get the grades they need for their chosen careers. She welcomes the links the Academy will have with both Brighton and Sussex Universities. 'It's really important we know what options are open to us if we want to stay on in education,' she says.

A series of special assemblies about the Academy has now started, and Year 8's Florence Woods is keen to have as much involvement as possible in planning for her new school. She says, 'If we get involved in looking at where things go and how things will be organised it will really start to feel like our school!'

A number of Falmer High School students have been identified to become student Academy Ambassadors and play a vital role in shaping the new Academy. These Ambassadors will form two groups with different areas of interest. The first group will work with Brighton & Hove City Council Project Manager Rod Derbyshire and focus on developing the new building. They will act as a valuable link between their fellow students and the design and construction team. A second group of students will work with Principal Designate Mrs Hogg to help shape all other aspects of the life of the new Academy. Both groups are due to begin their work in the new year.

Parents' Forum: your chance to get involved

The Falmer Academy Parents' Forum, set up to allow parents to advise the Principal Designate, Phil Hogg, is fast approaching its fifth meeting.

Forum member Penny Langridge has children in years 8 and 10 at Falmer High. She would like more parents' voices to be heard. 'I think parents need to be at the centre of the change to become an Academy. If you don't get involved, you don't know. The Forum is about our kids, our concerns and our right to ask,' says Penny.

The Parent's Forum meets for an hour once a month and is a chance for parents of children currently at Falmer High School to have their say about the new Academy.

If you would like to take part please contact Pat Rees on 01273 290346 or email pat.rees@brighton-hove.gov.uk



New prospectus online

For anyone who missed out on the new Academy prospectus it is now available to download at www.proposedfalmeracademy.org

If you need the prospectus in a different format or language please contact the Academy project office on 01273 296 766.

Community contacts

Every precaution will be taken to minimise the disruption to those working, studying and living near the Falmer Academy during the construction process. However if you have any queries or comments as the project develops please contact one of the following:

Reception, Falmer High School – 01273 691191

Steve Turner, Project Manager Kier - 07855 781056

Rod Derbyshire,

Project Manager Brighton and Hove City Council 01273 293589

