

Proposed

# Falmer Academy

NEWSLETTER

October 08



## Students say what they want for the proposed Academy

**Falmer High School students have been having their say about the proposed Falmer Academy.**

Since the beginning of the new term they have been involved in a student film and booklet project that gives them a chance to air their views about how they think the future plans will affect them.

The booklet highlights the new facilities and equipment that the Academy will have as a result of the building programme and explains the plans for a new sixth form.

It also looks at how the Academy's specialism of Entrepreneurship will give students a chance to start their own businesses and at all the opportunities that lie ahead for them when they leave school.

Sport, as the second specialism, will open up new opportunities including sport science and nutrition as well as new activities like boarding, cricket and tennis.

Students have heard about the big investment in technology that will happen, lots more freedom to learn with new and different courses to choose from, and they have been saying what they want.

*"I'd like to be able to learn more languages – like Japanese."*

**Rubie Rowsell, Year 8**

*"When we work in groups and help each other it's great – I'd like to do more of that in the new Academy."*

**Lewis Burton, Year 10**

They have not been short of ideas themselves and they have already put forward a number including a cheerleading team, a bigger games room, a bigger canteen and drama room.

Students also think that the new buildings and facilities will make a big difference.

*"It would be better, more modern."*

**Jade Bundock, Year 10**

*"I hope people look at our new Academy and say, 'that is where I'm going to send my kids!'"*

**Amey-Lea Coomber, Year 8**

## Find out what students think

The booklet setting out student views on the proposed Falmer Academy has been given to every student at Falmer High School and is also downloadable from the website:

[www.proposedfalmeracademy.org](http://www.proposedfalmeracademy.org)



## Coming soon...

Students have been making a film telling parents, carers and the local community what they think. This will be premiered at a special event at Falmer High School during October.

Visit the website for the latest news and updates about the proposed Falmer Academy  
[www.proposedfalmeracademy.org](http://www.proposedfalmeracademy.org) or email [info@proposedfalmeracademy.org](mailto:info@proposedfalmeracademy.org)

# Sponsor meets students and staff



Falmer Academy sponsor Rod Aldridge paid another visit to Falmer High in September as part of his ongoing work to find out as much about the school from those who work and study there. He met senior staff; sat in on four lessons, including Year 7 Modern Languages (see Rod pictured right with headteacher Stuart McLaughlin) met staff from the Swan Centre (who will have brand new purpose-built accommodation as part of the proposed new Academy).

Headteacher Stuart McLaughlin said of the visit, 'As sponsor Rod is very keen to get to know the school and its community, as well as sampling four lessons, he met

with senior staff from the school and The Swan Centre, and student representatives and mentors.'

Rod Aldridge said, 'I am encouraged by the fact that there is clearly a lot of passion and some great ideas in this school. I'm determined that the new Academy will build on that, at the same time as providing new, exciting opportunities for every student to shine.'

## Offering new opportunities through a sixth form

The proposed Falmer Academy will have a sixth form and this will create new opportunities for young people in the area.

Students will be offered flexible and exciting learning opportunities through the Post-16 Concordat between the sixth form at the Academy and the vocational facilities of City College. These opportunities will ensure that there are appropriate and attractive progression routes for Academy students when they reach 16. The Academy's sixth-form curriculum will include courses that complement the schools specialisms such as programmes to develop personal effectiveness, specialist studies and sports leadership awards.

Through partnerships with the University of Brighton and the University of Sussex, the Academy will ensure it provides pathways into higher education. Students will be able to follow an accelerated curriculum, starting Foundation Degree courses while still at the sixth form.

More details about this and other plans can be found in the Vision document for the proposed Falmer Academy on [www.proposedfalmeracademy.org](http://www.proposedfalmeracademy.org).

## What parents say

Parent governor Brian Shields, whose two daughters attended the school, is an outspoken supporter of the Academy proposals. He says, 'I know that we desperately need the new Academy to enable the school to continue to move forward and to provide the best possible facilities and curriculum for the students and local community.'

'I think Rod Aldridge has great vision and having a focus on entrepreneurship is exactly right as it encourages children to think for themselves and develop their own drive and expectations rather than having everything provided for them.'

'Also a new curriculum with facilities specifically built for it is vital, with enough of a mix of academic and vocational courses that everyone can achieve and enjoy their time at school.'

'The fact that a new sixth form is also part of the proposal is excellent news. It means students can continue to be taught by a group of staff who really understand their needs and that they can continue their education in an environment which they are used to.'

Brighton & Hove City Council is currently carrying out a consultation on the school closure notice for Falmer High School and is seeking your views. For information on this please contact: Gil Sweetenham, Assistant Director on 01273 293 433 or email [gil.sweetenham@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:gil.sweetenham@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

For more information on the proposed Academy visit the website [www.proposedfalmeracademy.org](http://www.proposedfalmeracademy.org) or email [info@proposedfalmeracademy.org](mailto:info@proposedfalmeracademy.org)