

Hope



News update from Hope Academy
Winter 2010

Christmas Grace

A message from our
sponsors

How easy it is to become so involved in the business of living that we miss the most important things in life. The Christmas season is a good example.

We can so fill our time with shopping, making preparations and joining with others in having a good time that we have no time to be still and really consider what it is that we are celebrating. Sometimes it is good to step back from the busy world and find time to reconnect with the true meaning of Christmas.

For Christians, Christmas is the time to celebrate that God came down to earth in the person of Jesus. In his life and teaching, death and resurrection, we believe that Jesus brings us Christmas gifts that money can't buy.

We recognise that some readers will belong to another faith or no faith, but whatever your background, we greet you in the name of Jesus Christ and wish you a Christmas full of the real Christmas gifts – love and peace.

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Everything going to plan

John Gannon, Principal of Hope Academy, update on the latest plans for the Academy.

I would like to welcome you to our winter edition of Hope which provides you with news and important updates as we prepare for the opening of the Academy.

I can report with confidence that preparatory work is continuing at pace – everyone is doing a phenomenal job and we are on track to open in September 2011.

This September saw the launch of our prospectus and our year 7 Open Evening which enabled hundreds of prospective pupils to tour our new building. Our sixth form prospectus, published in November, coincided with our very successful joint Year 11 transition day and open evening. My thanks to everyone concerned.

Following the success of the open evening I am pleased to report that applications for Year 7 places have been flooding in and we are set to be full in September. Offer of places will be made on 1st March 2011 in common with schools nationally.

Furthermore, as the process to appoint staff to the Academy begins to gather pace, I would like to warmly welcome our new Financial Director, Mr Alan Southward, to the Academy. Mr Southward joins us from a senior financial post in Liverpool and will take up his position in January.



John Gannon addressing visitors at the recent Year 5 & 6 Open Evening

I have also been meeting with members of the business community including the Chief Executive of B&Q and the Head of Sustainability at United Utilities, as part of our commitment to work closely with the local business community, and have discussed the prospect of some exciting joint community and curriculum projects. Our next newsletter will focus on the many curriculum innovations we intend to offer at Hope, including regular Breakout days where pupils will learn in new and exciting contexts and locations.

I am also pleased to report that the design options for our new look uniform, outlined in this edition, have caused a lot of interest and I have been very impressed with the considered and practical contribution pupils have made towards the final designs. These designs will now be made into actual uniforms for parents and pupils to consider.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and wish you all a very happy, peaceful and holy Christmas.

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Open evening awes visitors

Our first Year 5 & 6 Open Evening drew gasps of awe as 500 excited visitors were given guided tours within the building.



Attended by prospective future pupils and their parents, the event – which included presentations by The Academy's Principal John Gannon, enabled many to appreciate for the first time the sheer scale and scope of the development.

"There are so many innovative features and outstanding facilities within the Academy's design that the open evening was vital in order to help parents and pupils fully appreciate what we are creating" explains Principal, John Gannon.

"It will truly be a unique and inspirational educational community in which the children's development - intellectually, spiritually and socially - will be entirely catered for."

It will be one of the most sustainable and highly specified education buildings in the country. Wind turbines provide off-peak electricity, the heating and hot water is to be generated by renewable sources on site and 20% of the building and 70% of the external landscaping will be made from recycled materials.

Among the attendees was Tony Billows, whose son Lewis is a pupil at St. Catherine's Primary School in Lowton. "We're certainly impressed by what we've seen today", he said. "It's going to be a flagship school for the region and it's not just the building and facilities that stand out, but the ethos that they're going to operate. Lewis is certainly interested in coming here."



Academy Structure Complete

Following the success of the Open Evenings in September, October saw another cause for celebration, as work on the structure of the Hope Academy building was officially declared complete at a ceremonial Topping Out event.



Shown in the picture are, from left to right: Judith Godley, St.Helens Council; David Cumberland, Liverpool Hope University; Bishop James Jones; Father Michael O'Dowd; John Gannon, Mike Foy; St.Helens Council and Simon Butcher, Operations Director from Willmott Dixon.

Among the guests were the Bishop of Liverpool, James Jones, Father Michael O'Dowd and David Cumberland representing the Academy's three sponsors - the Church of England Diocese of Liverpool, the Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool, and Liverpool Hope University.

With capacity for 1,650 pupils – 300 of which will make up the Academy's modern and innovative Sixth Form, construction completion is expected to be in July 2011.

"This is the first Academy to have sustainability as its specialism so it's great to see it being built with sustainable materials" commented Bishop Jones.

"This is one of the most exciting educational projects I have been involved in creating" said Alistair Brymer, Project Manager for contractor Willmott Dixon. "The build is well on course, and we look forward to handing over an exceptional school next summer."

Uniformly pleasing

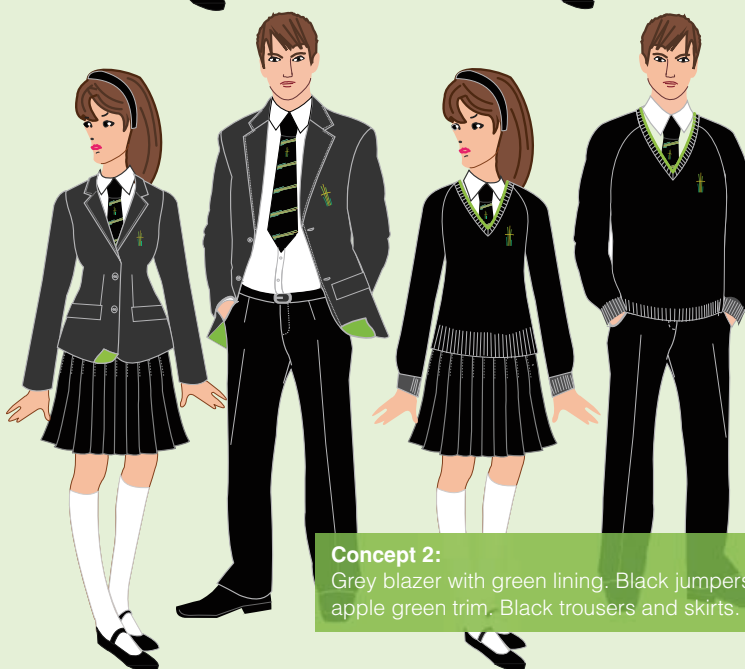
The building may have achieved structural completion recently but the news which many future pupils will be most excited to hear is that after months of careful consideration, the final concept designs for the school uniform can be revealed.

Featuring the unique Hope Academy logo and green accent colour, the modern but smart designs reflect the school's innovative and forward-thinking ethos.

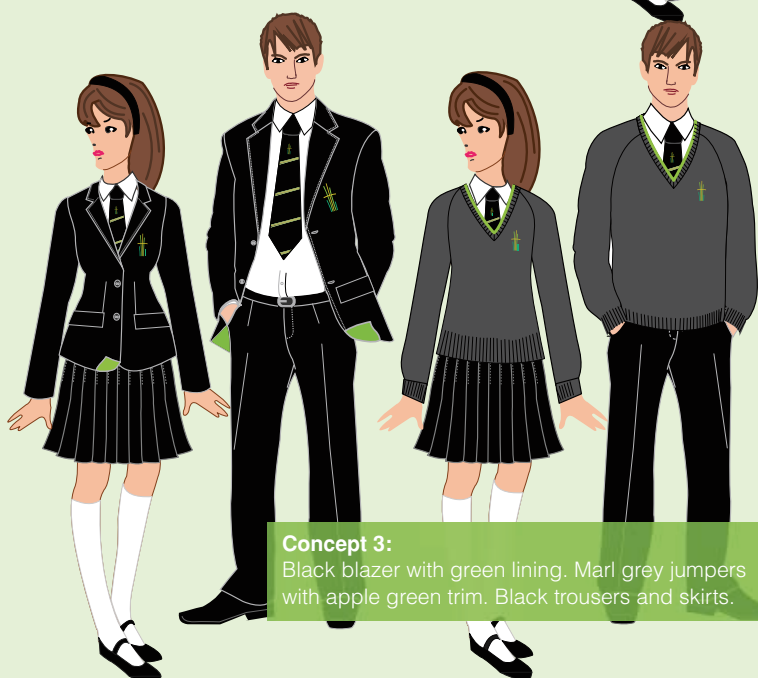
"The green accent is important because it alludes to the Academy's sustainable design and ethos, of which we are rightly proud" says John Gannon, Principal. "Pupils and parents will now have a say over which option the Academy adopts. In the new year we will have samples displayed in the receptions of both predecessor schools and we will also be holding voting sessions within the schools and on our website".



Concept 1:
Grey blazer with green lining. Black jumpers with apple green trim. Grey trousers and skirts.



Concept 2:
Grey blazer with green lining. Black jumpers with apple green trim. Black trousers and skirts.



Concept 3:
Black blazer with green lining. Marl grey jumpers with apple green trim. Black trousers and skirts.

Tie Concepts



Pupils take centre stage

Designed to give pupils and parents a clear overview of Hope Academy's programme and ethos, the new Prospectus featured computer generated illustrations of the school's innovative exterior and interior, along with inspirational photography featuring 15 Year 7-11 pupils from both St Aelred's and Newton Community High.

"The pupils chosen are to be congratulated on their achievements; they did an excellent job in representing Hope Academy" said John Gannon, Principal. "The Academy will focus on the care and happiness of our pupils, as well as their social, academic and personal development, and the Prospectus captured that visibly."

Featured in the Prospectus were, from St.Aelreds - Heather Ball, Robert Bourne, Rebecca Retford, Alexander Gore, Liam Dixon, Kathryn Barton, David Wiswell and from Newton High Lucy McLorie, Chloe Swift, Ben Cunliffe, Greg Kettley, Kyle Zeng, Leanne Wilcock, Matthew Heywood and Courtney Marsh.

Admission Accomplished

The prospectus is only part of the extensive marketing programme we are undertaking and all the hard work seems to be paying off.

According to preliminary figures from St.Helens' 2011 School Applications process, the Academy will exceed its set admissions target in its first year.

The Academy received more Year 7 applications than both St Aelred's and Newton High combined in the previous year.

"The level of applications from St.Helens pupils has been very high", said John Gannon, Principal. "We are still awaiting final numbers but are on track to be oversubscribed. This is tremendous news and reflects the fantastic facilities and exciting vision we have for Hope Academy."



With the deadline for applications to the Academy's impressive Sixth Form set at 17th December, it will be the New Year before it is known whether this too will exceed its admissions target. "The signs at this stage are good" says Mr Gannon. "Many prospective students attended our recent Open Evening and they seemed very impressed, not just with the A Level courses on offer but with the facilities, particularly the balcony terrace which provides open space for them to study, socialise or relax."



New website launched

Our new website will be going live on **MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER.**

On the website you can find information about everything that is happening at the new Academy and what will be happening in the future.

There are monthly updates about the build, information on what the pupils

can expect when they start at the Academy and downloads for both the Year 6 and sixth form prospectuses plus all the information regarding applications, including an application form for the sixth form.

Visit the website at:

www.hopeacademy.org.uk



A joint Catholic & Church of England Academy

If you have a comment or question, please get in touch:

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