



Whitley Bay High School, May 2022

Local school looks to future with new build

Following a period of extensive planning and consultation, Whitley Bay High School is delighted to announce the beginning of construction for a state-of-the-art new build.

North Tyneside Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn CBE joined students Jodie Eyre and Stephen Wilkinson, Chair of Governors Helen Thompson, Headteacher Steve Wilson, Project Director for the Department for Education James Stuart-Mills and Project Managers for BAM Construction Kane Swaddle and Jason Kelly on Tuesday 24th May for the official ground cutting ceremony to celebrate the occasion.

School leaders have worked closely with planning teams in their development of this prominent site which has culminated in a sustainable and aspirational vision and a significant focal point for the local community.

Many of the existing buildings, a number of which were constructed in the 1960s, will make way for a new facility that will meet the demands of twenty-first century learning, and the educational needs of future generations.

North Tyneside Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn CBE, said: *“The council is proud to support the creation of these wonderful new facilities for Whitley Bay High School. It will be great to see the project take shape and we wish the staff and students many years of success and happiness in their new state-of-the-art surroundings”.*



All aspects of the new development are geared towards a high-quality learning environment to support Whitley Bay High School's ethos, as well as providing extensive opportunities for extra-curricular activities and personal development. Current students have had an opportunity to see the designs for the new building and there are a number of partnership projects underway which students are enjoying and engaging with.

Chair of Governors Helen Thompson said: *"On behalf of current and past Governors, I am delighted that we are able to share such positive news about the rebuild of Whitley Bay High School. This is the first of many milestones on the way to providing a school building and facilities we can all be proud of, and which will sustain and nurture our students, staff and the community, now and in the future. Thank you to all who have helped us get this far and we look forward to seeing the plans come to life in the coming months"*.



The project is managed and funded by the Department for Education as part of the first wave of a national School Rebuilding Programme and involves part-demolition of the existing main blocks, the sports hall and modular accommodation. Two blocks, built post-2000, will be retained and incorporated into the new development.

Sustainability has been a significant consideration throughout the development and the new build will utilise cutting edge technology and environment solutions to ensure a low carbon footprint, such as air source heat pumps and photovoltaic canopies. The build will be carbon neutral in operation.

Extensive landscaping will also take place on and around the site, including native planting, wildlife hedging, sustainable drainage solutions and wildflower areas.

Headteacher Steve Wilson said: *"This is an exciting time for the school and the local community. The new build will provide state of the art facilities for our students. We have worked hard with the architects and construction company to ensure the new school will allow us to maintain the happy, community atmosphere that exists at Whitley Bay High School while allowing our students to thrive academically, socially and in terms of all the extra opportunities available"*.

Kehri Ellis, Chief Executive of North Tyneside Learning Trust said: *“North Tyneside Learning Trust has been the foundation trust to Whitley Bay High School for over a decade and I am absolutely thrilled that a modern new school building will offer a high quality learning environment to match the excellent education offered at the school. It’s an incredibly exciting time for the trust and the school, the new school building will offer a fantastic working environment for students and staff, with state of the art facilities, fit for 21st century teaching and learning”*

Construction begins in May 2022 with the new school build operational from autumn 2023. There will be a 12-month period of demolition thereafter, followed by completion of the external landscaping scheme, which includes a new sports pitch, by 2024.

The project has been carefully planned to ensure the school can remain fully operational throughout construction, ensuring a clear separation between the building works and the operational school.

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