

Building Schools for the Future Teddington School

Newsletter 7
January 2010



INTRODUCTION FROM MACE PLUS

Welcome to this edition of the Teddington School Construction newsletter. This will help to update you on the good progress that was made over the second half of 2009, as well as to outline some global related activities that have been taking place.

The building is fast approaching water tightness, at which time the focus of our attention will shift from the externals to the internal fit out of the new building. This is an exciting milestone in the construction programme.

We continue to work closely with Teddington School, Richmond Council and the local community and we recognise the importance of keeping you informed throughout the construction phase of the project. As usual we welcome your comments and feedback. Should you have any queries or wish to meet a member of the project team, contact details can be found overleaf.

CURRENT PROGRESS



We have recently completed the superstructure works (comprising concrete and steel frame), the majority of the building envelope (Brickwork, curtain walling and cladding) and roofing works and are now currently progressing

the internal fit-out works. The internal atrium space is taking shape and starting to showcase the fantastic educational environment that lies at the heart of the new school's design. Partitions within the building are being installed as expeditiously as possible. Other internal works including the raised access flooring, screeding, mechanical, electrical and plumbing installations are also well underway. Statutory installations are also nearing completion with Thames Water, EDF and Fulcrum Gas services having been brought into the site awaiting final connection.



The construction of such a complex building on a very constrained site poses many challenges, both in terms of design and logistics. Vertical transportation of materials across the site was achieved by the use of a fixed jib tower crane, the dismantling of which was achieved early in October. Prior to this key project milestone, it was essential to ensure that all the heavy building components and materials had already been lifted into position, which required some meticulous planning.

Finalising the detailed design of all the components in a timely manner and co-ordinating the many different trades both in terms of design and on site has also been key to the successful delivery of this, as with any project. The constrained nature of the site has made this all the more difficult however, and has enhanced the need for careful management to ensure that health and safety is maintained and productive working is maximised.

LOOKING AHEAD



The facade works will continue towards the completion of curtain walling and the commencement of timber cladding. As elevations are completed, a final snag and clean will allow the perimeter access

scaffolding to be removed when the building elevation will become increasingly visible. With the scaffold completely removed, we will be in a position to commence the hard and soft landscaping works, which will begin in earnest in the New Year. Meanwhile, the internal works will continue to be progressed towards the final decoration phase and installation of the soft floor finishes.

KEY CONSTRUCTION DATES

Stage 3 – end June 2010

Handover of the new school building and landscaping works

Stages 4 and 5 – June 2010 – January 2011

Demolition of the existing school buildings and final landscaping works, including installation of the all weather sports pitch

CONSIDERATE CONSTRUCTORS SCHEME

Mace Plus is a participating member of the Considerate Constructor Scheme. This encourages contractors to carry out works in a safe and considerate manner, with due regard to passing pedestrians and road users. If you do have any concerns relating to site activities, cleanliness of the adjacent roads or if there are any other concerns you may have, we would encourage you to please call us in the first instance, using the details below:

Should you have any questions or wish to contact a member of the Mace Plus team, please call:



John Fraser, Project Manager
07769 978543

You may also contact the Council by email to:

buildingdevelopment@richmond.gov.uk

or in writing to:

*Claire Briggs, Children's Services and Culture
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
First Floor, Regal House
London Road, Twickenham TW1 3QB*

TOPPING OUT CEREMONY - 2nd JUNE 2009

I was invited to the Topping Out Ceremony for our new school build. There were many famous faces from the Borough including the Mayor. It was really interesting to walk through the building site and try to imagine what the new school would look like. During the ceremony the final piece of concrete was laid by members of the MACE group, Mr Weeks and the Mayor. After the formal ceremony we moved to the Lensbury where I played in the school Jazz Band and had the opportunity to speak to some of the people who had designed the new building and others who were involved in building it.

Max Grantham - Year 11 student

The Topping Out ceremony was a fantastic event and I was very pleased to be part of it. Standing at the very top of the building we could see how much of the new school had been completed already. It was a very special moment in the history of Teddington School.

Hannah Simpson - Year 10 student



On the 2nd June 2009 I was one of the lucky 10 students to attend the Topping Out ceremony at Teddington School with Mr Weeks. This ceremony was to mark the day when the school had reached its highest point. It was very exciting as I got to look around the new building for the first time. It wasn't finished but it was very impressive. In total there were 125 guests and they came from Richmond Borough, Children Services, Mace Plus, BDP and some of us from Teddington School. At the end of the ceremony the last shovel of cement was put down and a branch was nailed to a wooden post as it is thought that this will scare off evil spirits. Mr Weeks was given a silver trowel to keep. I was very pleased to be included.

Miles Shacklady - Year 8 Student

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

From the start of this project it was clear that, not only would we be getting a fantastic new space to work in, but that there would be once in a lifetime opportunities to exploit the fact that we had a construction site next to the school. We have been fortunate that Mace Plus, the contractors, have been extremely co-operative and are very keen to work with the school to provide opportunities for students to go on site and for members of the building team to come into school.

Some of our projects take their lead from a careers perspective, giving students an insight into career and job opportunities provided by a building project of this scale. Other projects are more curriculum-based and seek to highlight the relevance of particular subjects or topics to the "real" world. Whichever the focus of the project, going onto the site and wearing hard hats and boots is proving very motivational for students and provides them with new and interesting ways of experiencing the curriculum as well as exposing them to a real working environment.

The first project we organised was for a group of students to visit the Sorrell Foundation Young Design Centre at Somerset House. They had the opportunity to look around the exhibition showing the history of school design and looks at current developments in design, technology and materials that are influencing the way that schools are designed for the future. Students then took place in workshops where they identified their priorities for our new school.

A group of Year 7 Design Technology students who were learning about levers visited the site for a demonstration of how a pipe-bender worked as a lever. They also saw a crane in action.

A group of Year 10 language students visited the site and looked at the signage to see how information was communicated in a variety of languages spoken by people working on, and visiting, the site. Students are currently preparing a display translating the signs into

languages taught in school and reflecting some of the other languages spoken by our students.



One of the most recent visits to the site was from a group of Year 11 GCSE Business Studies students who have been studying health and safety guidelines in the workplace. Their visit was to see how these are controlled and monitored on a busy building site. At the end of the visit, this group were full of high praise for the building and were particularly impressed by its scale, its wide walkways and stairs and the absence of traditional corridors. They were very positive about the open plan feel and excited by the views of the interior from high vantage points. One student said "It's like the Bentall Centre – it doesn't have the feeling of a school!"

Mace Plus have been into school to judge the results of a Science and Design activity where students used rolled up newspapers to make bridges spanning a 2 metre distance. Mace+ judged the strength of these bridges using weights and awarded prizes to the winning teams. Members of the Mace team also came in to speak to students about career opportunities in the construction industry as part of a whole day activity with Year 11 students.

We are enjoying the experience of providing our current students with a variety of exciting learning opportunities. We have many more projects planned for the near future involving the English, Science, Maths and MFL departments.

Maggie Bassett, Teacher

INNOVATIVE ICT DEVELOPMENTS AT TEDDINGTON

Although our new building is not scheduled to open its doors until 2010, the school has been experimenting with ICT in a bid to develop new ideas for its planned learning environment, and to boost our teachers' skills as final decisions on whiteboards, computers, MP3 players and other kit are made.

We have opened a pilot room in our current school for us to experiment with teaching and learning related technology. The room, which has now been operating for a year, has had equipment donated by major names – including Sony, Toshiba, Promethean and Logitech – and furniture from Kinnarps and Steelcase. Its aim is to allow a variety of technologies and different styles of furniture to be trialled with staff and students, who then give their feedback to Cordless Consultants, the project IT advisers.

Equipment such as interactive whiteboards, combined with a variety of furniture that offers flexible seating to



suit different activities, is designed to give staff the opportunity to set individual or collaborative work. The pilot room includes a voting system which records the students' feedback to the teacher and their results are saved for assessment purposes. It also

allows teachers to monitor instantly students' progression and understanding and to help target their individual learning needs. Other equipment includes wireless headsets to allow students to work with music or connect to the PC; sturdy laptops that will work anywhere in the school; a sound system that offers increased access to recorded material via iPod and CD; camcorders and large flat screen displays.

Staff are beginning to relish the potential afforded by ICT for injecting variety into the way lessons are

taught, and ICT makes personalised learning a reality. Students sit in a place in the room that is appropriate to their learning and are given an opportunity to choose the medium, such as an MP3 which is appropriate to the task.

In turn, this flexibility stretches staff. It means that teachers have to be prepared to offer different stimuli to people in the room; they have to be far more adaptable and they have to have a wider knowledge of presentation formats.

Training is being focussed on developing particular skill areas such as podcasts or managed learning environments, and subject teacher "champions" cascade these skills back to the rest of their department.



These developments have led to the school being recognised nationally on the Partnerships for Schools best practice website, articles featuring the students using the room in The Guardian, and to the school being awarded the inaugural Richmond Education Business Partnership award by the local authority. The photograph above shows Clare Huntingford from Richmond EBP presenting the trophy to Philip Ross, CEO of Cordless Consultants. Also in the picture are (l to r) Matthew Wailling from Cordless, Kevin Watling, Assistant Headteacher, Iain Godwin, Governor and Chair of the New School Build Committee, Richard Weeks, Headteacher.

Kevin Watling, Assistant Headteacher

LOCAL DIGNITARY VISITS THE SITE

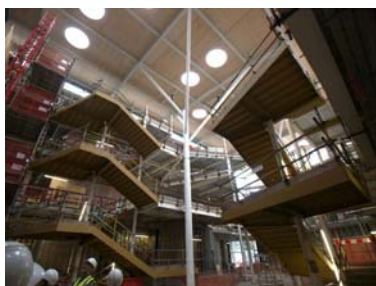


Twickenham MP, Vincent Cable, very much enjoyed his visit to the site earlier in the autumn term and is seen here (centre) on the roof of the new school with (l to r)

Jack Stephen, Chair of Governors, Darren Jacob, Project Manager, Richard Weeks, Headteacher and John Fraser, Mace Plus Project Manager

FROM THE HEADTEACHER'S DESK

It is with growing excitement that I watch, first hand, as our new school gradually takes shape. Since September we have been able to get a very clear idea of how the new school will look and, for a layman like me, I find it fascinating that the finished structure is identical to the Computer Generated Images (or CGIs as we call them in the trade!)



Whilst the new school evolves, we have been working away feverishly in the old school to ensure that we have agreed and

developed the academic and cultural values and expectations we want in the new school, and what rules and regulations, policies and practices we wish to operate in order to ensure that our children get the very best out of what our splendid new building will have to offer us.

Richard Weeks

Newsletters can also be found on the Council's website

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/building_schools_for_the_future_newsletter_updates.htm

If you have difficulty understanding this publication, please visit reception at the address below where we can arrange a telephone interpreting service.

إذا كانت لديك صعوبة في فهم هذا المنشور، فنرجو زيارة الإستقبال في العنوان المعطى أدناه حيث بإمكاننا أن نرتب لخدمة ترجمة شفوية هاتفية.

Arabic

اگر در فهمیدن این نشریه مشکلی دارید لطفاً به میز پذیرش در آدرس قید شده در زیر مراجعه نمایید تا ترتیب ترجمه تلفنی برایتان فراهم آورده شود:

Farsi

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਪੇਸ਼ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਤੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਰਿਸੈਪਸ਼ਨ 'ਤੇ ਆਓ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਤੇ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰਿਟਰ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

Punjabi

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Please contact us if you need this newsletter in Braille, large print, on audio tape or in another language

Phone: 020 8891 7500 or

Minicom: 020 8891 7539