



Excelsior News

The Excelsior Academy Newsletter

Issue 4 – December 2007

www.excelsiornewcastle.org.uk

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Safe and Secure Academy
- Prospectus
- Key facts
- Schools named
- Parents panel
- Building update
- Excelsior staff
- Uniform news
- Just moved to the area?
- Contact us

ACADEMY PROSPECTUS AVAILABLE NOW



If you have not already got a prospectus please write to us at Bridgewater and we will post one to you. The prospectus is also available on the

website - www.excelsiornewcastle.org.uk

It contains detailed information but if you have any other questions please write to us or send an e-mail.

KEY FACTS

- Opening September 2008
- For local children living in the west end
- Free and non-selective
- A multi-faith academy, open equally to all children regardless of their beliefs
- 1,800 places including 300 in Excelsior College, the post-16 school
- Safe, secure and personalised for every student
- Taking 300 children per year into year 7
- Each of the four 11-16 schools will have 375 students, with 75 in each year group
- It is being set up by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the sponsor, Irvine Laidlaw

SAFE AND SECURE ACADEMY

Firstly, thanks to everyone who attended the community information events that we recently held. Myself and the rest of the Excelsior staff found everyone's input and comments extremely useful.

At Excelsior Academy 1,800 students will have the advantage of a wide range of high quality resources and equipment that a large school can offer, along with the security and personal support that a small school can provide.

Just one of the many things that makes Excelsior so special is the way that the Academy will be divided - into five dynamic units comprising four schools and a sixth form college for post 16-year-olds. We offer a high level of specialist facilities including technology, the arts, sports, ICT and will deliver new vocational diplomas to equip students for the future.

Lunchtimes will be a unique event at Excelsior with each of the schools given their own designated time to come and eat their meal together. This will add to the overall feel of lunchtime being a real family dining experience for students.

Opening in September next year the Academy will offer all students core national curriculum subjects that include Maths, English, ICT and Science. There will be an overall specialism in Business Enterprise education, and students will be taught in the four specialist schools with emphasis on business and economics; health related studies; creative and performing arts; design, construction and the environment.

Opportunities at Excelsior College will range from vocational qualifications through to GCSEs, AS and A levels, preparing pupils for work or further and higher education. With the emphasis on Business Enterprise, students will take responsibility for the organisation and management of Academy trading, retail activity and student school banking.



Excelsior Executive Principal
Mrs Philomena Marshall MA

SCHOOLS NAMED

We are delighted to announce that names have now been chosen for each of the four specialist schools within Excelsior.

Pupils from West Gate Community College decided on the titles after following a brief that stated all of the schools were to be named after well known local figure from the North East, whose contribution to their field of work has left a lasting historical impact.

The following names have been decided upon:

Hadrian - design, construction and the environment

Armstrong - business and economics

Milburn - health related studies

Jefferson - creative and performing arts

Parents panel

A parent representative from each of the schools that currently cluster with West Gate Community College has been invited to join a special panel.

This group will meet on a regular basis to talk about the education policies that will be in place for their children when they come to Excelsior.

The parents are due to get together again in the new year to discuss the homework policy at the Academy.

BUILDING UPDATE

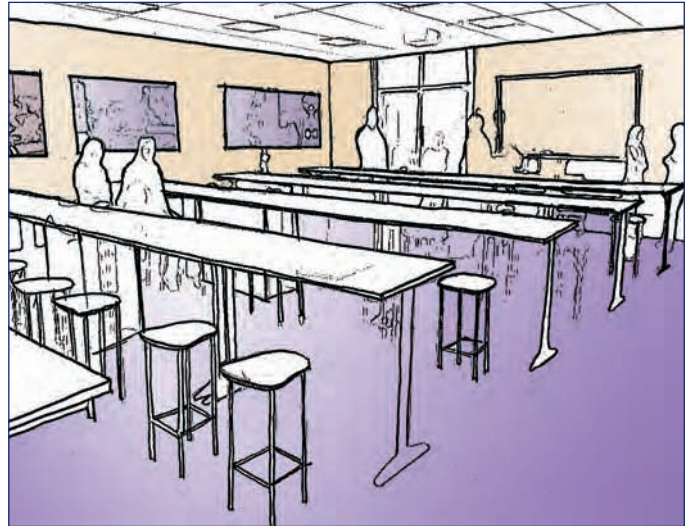
With 30 weeks to go 130 SURGO construction staff are hard at work to ensure completion of the Excelsior Academy in time for the autumn term 2008.

Construction of the final stages of the science labs is underway and contractors have already started the internal first fix adding plasterboard and skirting boards. The east and west blocks are also currently being joined together.

Architect Neil Turner from HLP said: "This will mean Excelsior will sit proudly on the Newcastle sky-line, looking across the west end of the city."

A fascinating fact:

in total 200,000 metres of cable will be used in construction - equivalent to 124 miles, almost the distance between Newcastle and Sheffield.



Interior of the science labs

EXCELSIOR STAFF

A third School Principal has now been appointed to Excelsior Academy and will take up his post in January 2008.



Mr David Hughes, School Principal

Mr David Hughes is currently Deputy Head of Thornaby Community School in Stockton-on-Tees. A teacher for 25 years, David has been at Thornaby Community School since 2004. Prior to that he was Assistant Headteacher at Pennywell School in Sunderland.

He joins the existing team of Mrs Philomena Marshall, Executive Principal, School Principals Miss Judith Futers and Mrs Lynn Aitchison and Business Manager, Mr Peter Snowdon.

Staff are continuing to work on the curriculum and the overall organisation of the Academy and will in the coming weeks be recruiting a fourth School Principal – one to head up each of the four individual schools for 11-16 year olds.

"Mr Hughes joins a dynamic team that share a collective vision for Excelsior to enrich learning and opportunities for all" said Mrs Marshall.

JUST MOVED TO THE AREA? THERE'S STILL TIME TO APPLY

The application process for year 6 pupils is already underway, and parents who made an application back in September will receive confirmation in the New Year as to what school their child will be attending. If however your family has just moved to the area, there is still time to apply for a place at the Excelsior Academy.

For more information contact us using the details below.

UNIFORM GOES GREEN

Students joining Excelsior next September will be able to get in the mood for learning with a specially-designed uniform.

Pupils from West Gate Community College had an input to the final uniform which consists of a dark green blazer with the Academy logo, black trousers, black shoes, a plain grey jumper and white shirt for boys and girls. The uniform will be complemented by striped bespoke ties for each of the four schools.

Business Manager Peter Snowdon said: "All students will be required to wear the uniform, which will be the same for boys and girls. The green blazer that has been chosen will reflect the green credentials of the buildings and our responsible approach to learning."

The uniform will be provided free of charge to current West Gate Community College pupils who attend the Academy. For new pupils, the uniform will be available to buy from a number of local retailers and every effort has been taken to ensure that it will be priced affordably. More information about where the uniform can be purchased from and what it will cost will be released in the new year.



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