



# Excelsior News

The Excelsior Academy Newsletter

Issue 5 – July 2008

[www.excelsiornewcastle.org.uk](http://www.excelsiornewcastle.org.uk)

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## 2008 - 2009 ACADEMY PROSPECTUS



The 2008 - 2009 Academy Prospectus is being finalised and will be available in the near future.

Updates will be posted on the Excelsior Academy website at:

[www.excelsiornewcastle.org.uk](http://www.excelsiornewcastle.org.uk)

## 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

## LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

**With less than two months to go until the Excelsior Academy opens its doors to students, it is an exciting time for everyone involved in the project.**

As building work nears completion and the Academy's four School Principals are in post and 6th Form Director confirmed, we are now looking forward to welcoming students at the start of term in September.

One of the main aims of the Academy is to make students feel part of a community where their achievements and successes are promoted and celebrated.

By providing students with a safe and stimulating learning environment, we will enable them to achieve their academic potential and develop the practical skills necessary to become well-rounded individuals, making a positive contribution to society.

Divided into four separate units, each of the 11 to 16 schools will have a total of 375 students, with a maximum of 75 in each year group. We believe that there are great educational and social benefits for students in a smaller unit. The fifth school, Excelsior College - for students over 16 – is run along similar lines. It will have 300 places.

Personalised learning will ensure that all students, including the gifted, talented and those with special and/or additional needs, are supported and encouraged.

Specialist assessment and teaching will be offered to those students for whom English is an additional language.



Excelsior Executive Principal  
Mrs Philomena Marshall MA

## TERM DATES Excelsior Academy term dates 2008-09:

Excelsior opens - This opening week in September will be a phased process and parents will be informed of their child's start date.

Monday 1st September 2008

1st half-term ends

Friday 24th October

October Half-Term

Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October

2nd half term commences

Monday 3rd November

Term ends

Friday 19th December

Christmas

Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2009

Term commences

Monday 5th January 2009

1st half-term ends

Friday 13th February

February Half-Term

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February

2nd half-term commences

Monday 23rd February

Term ends

Friday 3rd April

Easter

Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April

Term commences

Monday 20th April

May Day

Monday 4th May

1st half-term ends

Friday 22nd May

Spring Half-Term

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

2nd half-term commences

Monday 1st June

Term ends

Friday 17th July

Summer Holidays commence

Monday 20th July

# COUNCILLOR SUPPORTS ACADEMY

Councillor Rob Higgins has been appointed to the governing body at the Excelsior Academy.

He is one of three Labour councillors representing the Benwell and Scotswood area.

Governors and staff are delighted at the appointment of Councillor Higgins, who has always been a strong supporter of the Academy.

Councillor Higgins said: "I have always been a strong advocate for the Academy and am looking forward to working closely with staff and governors at the school.

"I am confident that Excelsior will build on some of the excellent work that primary schools in the Benwell and Scotswood area are currently undertaking and that it will offer secondary and post-16 pupils a unique learning experience."

"It is a very exciting time for the Academy and, under the guidance of Executive Principal Philomena Marshall, I feel we can really make a difference to the lives of young people in the area."



Appointed to the governing body:  
Councillor Rob Higgins

## BUILDING UPDATE

As work moves on apace, approximately 250 tradesmen are now on site seven days a week to ensure that building work remains on schedule.



With classrooms and resource rooms now taking shape inside the building, attention is being paid to the installation of the Academy's internal features.

After passing through the impressive entrance, a sweeping staircase will take staff and students from the reception foyer into the heart of the Academy.

Speaking about the progress, SURGO Construction Manager, Jack Downey, said: "As we head towards completion the team is working tremendously hard. With so many tradesmen currently on site, each carrying out a very important aspect of the job, we are beginning to see the fruits of our labours. The installation of the feature staircase will further transform the building."

Throughout the construction community groups, project partners and future students have all benefited from site visits. This is set to continue with a forthcoming visit by representatives of the Scotswood Housing Environment Forum - community development officer, Bev Ogle and neighbourhood manager for Scotswood and Benwell, Louise Stobbart.



## NEW APPOINTMENTS

All School Principals have now been appointed and the Academy is delighted to welcome Craig Taylor as the fourth School Principal.

Mr Taylor was previously Deputy Head of Mortimer Community School in South Shields.

Each of the Principals has now been allocated a school:

**Craig Taylor** - School Principal of The Hadrian Environment School

**David Hughes** - School Principal of The Milburn Health School

**Judith Futers** - School Principal of The Jefferson Arts School

**Lynn Aitchison** - School Principal of The Armstrong Business School

In other appointments, Bill Findlay has been appointed as Premises and Facilities Manager. Bill was previously senior caretaker at West Gate Community College. Lyndsey Anderson has been appointed Catering Manager for the Academy. Lyndsey joins the team from Compass Catering.

## EXPO PROJECT

Excelsior staff are currently working with officers from Newcastle City Council to discuss ways in which the Academy can be involved in a £450m project to transform the Scotswood area.

The Scotswood Expo will be the focus of a comprehensive housing led regeneration of the west end of Newcastle, featuring 1,800 new family homes (of which 25% will be affordable housing), retail, commercial and community facilities and an improved public park. The first homes will be ready for occupancy in 2011.

The Scotswood Expo will be the first event scheme of its kind in the UK.

John Musham, Principal Officer for Enterprise at Newcastle City Council, views EXPO as "an exceptional initiative that will regenerate the local community and provide exciting opportunities for young people to be involved in a range of enterprise and learning opportunities. We very much look forward to working closely with Excelsior to make the most of this potential."

**CONTACT US:** Excelsior Academy, c/o Bridgewater, Delaval Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 6NR  
E-mail: [enquiries@excelsiornewcastle.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@excelsiornewcastle.org.uk)  
Visit our website at: [www.excelsiornewcastle.org.uk](http://www.excelsiornewcastle.org.uk)