



Insite

Partnerships for Schools
Quarterly
Autumn 2008



partnerships for schools

building schools for the future



Welcome to the autumn edition of *Insite*. The start of the new school year in September saw 22 new BSF schools open their gates to students, teachers and local communities the length and breadth of the country, with more to follow throughout the autumn term.

Since our last edition, having demonstrated their ability to hit the ground running on entry to the programme, eight local authorities were selected for a fast-track start to BSF, meaning that young people, teachers and local communities will benefit from new BSF schools earlier than was previously possible. In total, 80 local authorities are now engaged in the programme, covering around 1,000 secondary schools.

The autumn will also see the implementation of the recommendations from our recent Procurement Review. Expected to reduce the procurement phase of BSF by up to two months and reduce bid costs across the programme by an anticipated £250m, the recommendations are to be implemented in time for local authorities in Wave 5.

Following on from this work, we have also commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to carry out a review of operational Local Education Partnerships (LEPs) to identify what is working well and what lessons can be passed on to those who have not yet reached the point of forming a LEP. More detail on the progress of this review is included in this edition.

But as well as pressing ahead with improving the processes and support mechanisms that surround the programme, early indications of the difference that BSF is making on the ground are also most encouraging. GCSE results for the first set of BSF schools to have been open for a year or more show an average increase of around 10% in results for A* - C, including English and Maths.

As you will all be well aware, all of this progress must be seen against a challenging economic backdrop. We monitor market engagement and activity very closely – and will continue to do so – and all current indicators suggest that the market continues to be a healthy and vibrant one. Indeed, as I made clear to the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee when I gave evidence to them in the summer, over the last few months, three new private sector players alone have indicated their intention to enter the market.

Both the market and the public sector were well represented at our recent Annual Conference, a sell-out event on which more detail is provided later in this edition. Of particular note was Jim Knight's confirmation of the Government's commitment to introducing a Minimum Design Standard in BSF to help ensure that only high quality designs progress through the procurement process. We hope to be able to provide an update on the detail of how the Standard will work in practice over the coming months.

We'll be talking more about design in BSF at our forthcoming Design Conference, due to take place in November – more details on page 11.

November will also see us host the inaugural Excellence in BSF Awards, where we will be joined by comedian, Rob Brydon. I hope to see many of you there at what promises to be a night to remember.

As ever, we welcome your comments on this edition of *Insite*. As previously, we have opted not to print this publication as part of our commitment to reduce our paper usage, so please don't print it unless you really need to.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Byles'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small 'up' written above the main name.

Tim Byles CBE
Chief Executive



Project update & news

BSF Waves 1-3

Seven Wave 1 local authorities completed new schools for the new school year beginning in September: 22 schools opened, bringing the BSF total to 35. Some of the new buildings and facilities are featured on the front cover of this edition of *Insite* and on pages 8 and 9.

Ministers, including the Children, Schools and Families Secretary, the Rt Hon Ed Balls MP visited eight BSF schools across the country – in Waltham Forest, Bristol, Manchester, Burnley, Leeds and Bradford – as part of a tour of educational establishments opening for the first time in September.

Barnsley and Newham announced their Selected Bidders in August, and Southwark announced theirs in September.

Tower Hamlets Council announced Bouygues as its partner for their £240m BSF programme.

BSF Waves 4-6

In Wave 4, Blackburn with Darwen and Somerset have advertised their projects with OJEU.

In Wave 5, Kensington & Chelsea Council has officially entered the programme.

Seven more Wave 6 projects have also officially entered the programme, having had their initial remit meeting.

BSF Waves 7-15

In his keynote speech at the PfS Annual Conference on 18 September, the Minister of State for Schools and Learners, Jim Knight MP, announced that expressions of interest were being invited from all local authorities yet to join BSF.

Guidance on completing expressions of interest, which are due back to the DCSF by 30 November 2008, can be found on the PfS website, under Guidance documents.

The Minister aims to announce a new national programme for Waves 7 to 15 early in 2009. PfS will then invite those local authorities with the highest prioritised projects to provide evidence that they are ready to deliver.

For more information about the progress of BSF projects, go to the PfS website: www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/programme/progress.jsp

Academies

The Academies delivery through PfS is now gaining significant momentum with the Academies team at PfS currently engaged on 106 projects which have reached Expression of Interest stage.

48 Academies are being delivered through the BSF LEP process and 58 through the National Framework.

23 Academy OBCs have been approved to date. Three projects have reached FBC: Darlington, Milton Keynes and Southwark.

As a result of the considerable uptake of projects within the national framework driven by acceleration and early procurement success, we are fast approaching the £2 billion OJEU limit of the National Framework procurement.

We are now in the process of beginning to procure a further framework with an OJEU value of between £3.5 to £4billion, which is intended to be operational by December 2009.

For more information about the progress of Academy projects through BSF and the National Framework, go to the PfS website: www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/programme/academies_progress.jsp

News in brief

This section of *Insite* provides a round-up of the interesting snippets of news and information we pick up through our contacts with local authorities, private sector contractors and our government partners.

If you have a 'snippet' that you think *Insite* readers would be interested in, please send it to insite@p4s.org.uk.

The great-grandson of entrepreneur and philanthropist Sir Titus Salt has visited the school his ancestor founded 140 years ago to tour the new building and facilities, and meet with current pupils. Denys Salt, 92, along with five other members of the Salt family, spent time at the new Titus Salt School, which has been built as part of Bradford Council's Building Schools for the Future programme.



Mill owner and politician Sir Titus Salt (pictured left) founded Salt Grammar School in 1868 to educate children from Saltaire, the purpose-built village that served his textile mill.

Sue Mansfield, head teacher of Titus Salt School, said: "Our determination to keep our links with our heritage and history was clearly shown by the overwhelming support for the new school name which recognises the contribution to education made by the Salt family in establishing the first school in Saltaire. Although the building and facilities are brand new there are many things that firmly root Titus Salt School with its past, particularly the emphasis on both pastoral care and high academic standards."



Dressed for success: A recent 'back to school' survey has shown that sales of school blazers have jumped by 200% in the past six months as schools reject sweatshirts in favour of more formal uniforms. Experts say smarter uniforms can help boost a school's success, and the uniform is one of the first things many schools change when they enter new or refurbished buildings. An Ofsted survey showed that adopting smarter uniforms improved a school's perception among pupils, parents and the community.

As work progresses on the Castle View Enterprise Academy (pictured below) – part of Sunderland's BSF programme – four advisory groups are being established, for staff, students, parents and the community – to keep them involved in and informed about decisions about the new Academy. The groups are being established to work with the school, local authority and contractors on ideas including what the new uniform should be like.



Buttershaw's Olympian hopes: Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College – a new BSF school which opened in Bradford this term – has become the first school in the district to start its own sports academy. More than 50 pupils aged between 11 and 18 – all with recognised talents in a range of sports including hockey, rugby, basketball, gymnastics and swimming – have been selected to become part of the school's special Sports Academy. Each student will get first-class coaching, represent their school in competition, and act as a role model for peers.

Swedish headteachers and council officers from the city of Jönköping have visited North Lincolnshire as part of a cultural exchange focusing on education. The group of seven headteachers, along with officials from Jönköping Council, toured local educational facilities, and were particularly interested in the BSF programme. The visit came after nine North Lincolnshire headteachers and council employees visited the Swedish city of Jönköping over the past two years.

Wood chips from Lancashire forests will be used to power the boilers at three new schools which opened in the county last month. The renewable energy source will make the schools more environmentally friendly – and boost the local economy, according to council bosses. Special biomass boilers are being installed in the following BSF schools: Shuttleworth College, Padiham, Pendle Vale College and Community High School, Nelson, and Burnley Campus.

Environmental sustainability has been a key feature of Lancashire's BSF project. Further renewable energy is generated by photovoltaic cells, solar cells and wind-powered turbines, while consumption of mains water is reduced by the installation of rainwater harvesting tanks that can be used to flush lavatories. Students are also being encouraged to become much more aware of their direct impact with energy consumption information being on display and linking to the curriculum.

Milton Keynes Academy: the movie: An open evening with a difference took place for the new Milton Keynes Academy last month. Almost 400 parents and children packed into the city's Xscape cinema to take a 'flying tour' through the virtual Academy on the big screen. An animated 3D film showed families around the school both inside and out (pictured below) - flying over the sports facility and into the classrooms as well as visiting the new library and Enterprise Hub. Visitors even got free popcorn while they enjoyed the film.



"Usually at this time of year students will get to take a tour of the new secondary school that they will attend in Year 7. However, as ours isn't built yet we felt this was an ideal way to show parents and children what the Academy is about," explained Principal Lorna Caldicott.

Every child from nearby primary schools going into Year 6 in September 2008 was invited along with their parents or guardians to watch the screening. The event was so popular that it had to be screened twice.

News in brief, cont'd...

All the world's a stage: Thousands of students across England will get to tread the boards this year and put on their own interpretations of Shakespeare's plays, thanks to Land Securities Trillium. The company is giving £45,000 to the Shakespeare Schools Festival (SSF), enabling 310 schools across nine regions of the UK to participate in the programme which gives pupils the opportunity to work as a team, to make new friends, to explore and understand great works of literature and to develop confidence and self esteem.

The SSF, which is open to all 11-16 year olds at secondary schools, special schools and youth theatres in the UK, will use Trillium's investment to provide scripts of the 17 abridged Shakespeare plays, online resources including interactive lighting programme, forums and blogs, director resource packs with technical information and production tips, and press and marketing material including posters and flyers. Funding will also be used to deliver workshops for teachers run by theatre practitioners. The workshops will provide teachers with practical tips and techniques for ensemble work and provide them with a valuable opportunity to network with other teachers in their region. CEO of Trillium, Ian Ellis, commented: 'We believe passionately in this initiative because of its power to improve and enrich the lives of young people from all kinds of backgrounds across the country. Trillium manages the operation of 197 public private partnership schools across the UK and we view this sponsorship of the Shakespeare Schools Festival as an extension of our commitment to improving educational opportunities for young people'.

Earlier this year PfS sponsored an event at the House of Commons, hosted by Barry Sheerman MP, to introduce the work of the Shakespeare Schools Festival to BSF local authorities and private sector partners,

Are you an unsung sporting hero? With the Olympic and Paralympics in Beijing producing so many British medallists, and London 2012 now less than four years away, the BBC is seeking to recognise the people who devote their time, energy and effort to helping more people enjoy sport around the UK. Improved facilities and access to a range of sporting opportunities are key to BSF, so if you know someone who, on a voluntary basis, makes a difference to sport within your region they could win a bursary to help support their club in the future. For more information see: http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/tv_and_radio/sports_personality_of_the_year/7598639.stm

Update: Operational LEPS review

As we reported in the last edition of *Insite*, PwC has been commissioned by PfS to carry out a review of how Operational LEPS are working.

Specifically, the review is covering:

- Experiences to date from the existing operational LEPS;
- Consideration of best practice in embedding partnership behaviours;
- Ways in which to demonstrate value for money and the deliverables from continuous improvement;
- Recommendations on how to further align objectives within LEPS;
- A specific focus on the effectiveness of ICT integration and FF&E integration.

The diagnostic phase of the review, driven by field work with 11 LEPS, is now largely complete.

Key findings include:

- Those who have set up a LEP recognise the benefits of this model;
- Evidence that individual LEP partners are learning from other experiences and are committed to making the LEP work and deliver educational transformation
- There is a need to link more clearly between pre-procurement and procurement and operation;
- Some evidence of traditional contractual stances, as opposed to genuine partnership working;
- Appetite for more best practice and 'how to' support; and
- A recognition that the benefits of standardisation need to be balanced with local solutions and a changing environment

A final report detailing the findings and any recommendations will be published in late 2008/early 2009.

Update: Delivery Partners

Each edition of *Insite* will feature updates and news from our BSF delivery partners, CABE, 4ps and NCSL. For this edition, 4ps have contributed the following update, and we hope to feature an article from CABE in the Winter edition of *Insite*.

4ps, the BSF local government delivery partner, continues to provide valued support to local authorities, free at the point of use as a result of DCSF grant funding

The focus at present is on helping the most recent entrants to organise their teams and build capacity to handle the complexities of the procurement process. In many cases, 4ps has been asked to undertake a Skills and Resources Audit which can identify current needs and provide a basis for early action. Audits can be followed up with tailored training for the wider project team, from development of the Business Case, through the phases of competitive dialogue, to preparation for the operational phase of BSF.

A series of 4ps Gateways Reviews are also available (of which two are mandatory in BSF), providing independent reports on the readiness of a project to proceed to the next stage, together with any recommended actions.

At the same time, there are still many local authorities not yet in the BSF programme, that are keen to understand what will be required to succeed. 4ps responds to requests to deliver briefings, often to elected members and senior management teams, so that they can start to prepare in terms of strategy and the mechanisms for delivery.

4ps' experience over 12 years of working with local authorities on projects in other sectors provides a good understanding of the local issues that often need to be resolved in order to smooth entry into BSF. 4ps then works alongside colleagues in PfS and the other delivery partners, continuing to provide best practice advice and support.

Work is now ongoing to review and refine the best ways for this support to be taken forward beyond March 2009.

For more information please contact Juliet Manuel, 4ps BSF programme manager juliet.manuel@4ps.gov.uk



Case study: Sheffield

We invited Sheffield's BSF team to tell us how they are demonstrating their commitment to the community:

More than £300 million has been earmarked for investment in Sheffield's secondary schools between 2007 and 2013. With this level of commitment, considerable effort has been made to ensure educational transformation is not just within the end building, but is apparent throughout the design and construction phases.

The LEP's vision for Sheffield is clear: "creating great places where Sheffield's children and their communities can learn and flourish".

With this in mind, the LEP recognises that the building works themselves can be used to educate and develop learning with the students and the local community.

If you would like your BSF project to feature in the next edition of *Insite*, please contact us at insite@p4s.org.uk

The photograph above shows Project Director John Turner, Councillor Andrew Sangar and Taylor Woodrow's Colin Beresford with students from the 'We Love Planet Earth' performance.

Activities with the students have included:

- visioning to get student input into the design of the schools
- activities/worksheets to integrate the construction site into curriculum opportunities in subjects such as maths, physics, art and geology
- career talks/technical discussions and mentoring of students by female engineers to encourage careers in construction
- student surveys to monitor perceptions of the construction industry
- volunteers to help students improve their reading skills
- art competitions for site hoardings
- support of summer schools and work experience placements
- involvement of the students in marking key milestones such as 'Topping Out'

To extend this to other schools, Taylor Woodrow sponsors the annual Sheffield Children's Festival, which encourages children across the city to express themselves through mediums such as art and dance. A variety of activities are undertaken with the guidance of professional artists – ranging from Shakespeare productions to building Terracotta Warriors out of breeze blocks.

One particular performance in this year's festival was 'We Love Planet Earth' which stressed the issues of climate change.

But the scope of this vision reaches far wider than the schools alone, and extends into the local communities. One such aim is to increase local employment on BSF projects from 47% to 75%, so more companies in South Yorkshire can be involved in the scheme. To promote this, the LEP General Manager sits on the Sheffield Work and Skills board.

Taylor Woodrow is also involved in the local Construction Job Match Scheme which aims to get unemployed people back to work. They also have a target of offering 125 work experience opportunities over the lifetime of the project. These range from a fortnight's office experience to a 12-week work placement either with Taylor Woodrow or with a member of their supply chain. The LEP has also assisted Sheffield in the generation of their new construction diploma.

This collaborative approach to the partnership within the Sheffield BSF scheme has ensured that community engagement will benefit all local stakeholders, and is testament to the success of the project to date. A further example of this was the ICT at Yewlands School, the first BSF School to be completed by the Sheffield LEP.

Angela Armytage, Headteacher at Yewlands School & Technology College, said: "The benefits of the new MLE and managed service are enormous, it is changing the way we communicate, develop teaching and learning and saving leadership time to focus more effectively on our core purpose, raising standards."

Sheffield BSF: key facts and figures

- First wave of Sheffield BSF comprises three new PFI schools (including a co-located SEN) and one Design and Build school
- Building works programme will rebuild or refurbish more than 20 schools in Sheffield by 2013
- The Sheffield LEP, formed between Sheffield City Council and Taylor Woodrow, was established on 31 July 2007
- The first school was completed on 31 August 2008, and included the successful launch of the ICT Managed Service within a modern ICT learning environment

Key companies:

Taylor Woodrow: Construction and facilities management
Civica: ICT solutions
HLM: Architects
BDP: Architects
EC Harris: Cost consultants
Rotary: M&E
CORLA: PFI expertise



...and around the country

which have been operational for at least a year, Oxclose Community School in Sunderland saw the highest number of students obtaining five or more A* to C grades including English and Maths. This year 62% of Oxclose students were awarded GCSE grades A* to C including English and Maths, compared with 41% in 2007.

Commending students and staff for their achievements, Tony Cunningham, Head teacher of Oxclose, said: "Our refurbished facilities have allowed new opportunities to deliver high-quality teaching and learning in a first-class learning environment which certainly made a contribution to Oxclose Community School achieving its best ever GCSE results."

Steve Robinson, Head teacher of Chaucer Business and Enterprise College, Sheffield, said: "These are the best results in the history of the school and show a 29% and 7% improvement respectively on the last set of results achieved prior to the completion of the new build (in 2006). There is no doubt in my mind that the new build has had a huge impact on student achievement."

All Saints College in Newcastle marked its most successful A level year ever, with a record number of students winning university places.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the new build has had a huge impact on student achievement"

As filming came to an end at Bristol Brunel Academy on GCSE results day the chatter was all about the future, and the doors unlocked by a clutch of good grades. With its sixth form opening for the first time this September, Bristol Brunel has seen around 100 Year 11 students stay on for post-16 studies, with many more continuing their studies at colleges in the city. This year's exam results truly showed how BSF is helping to improve the life chances of young people across the country.

GCSE results day: Bristol...

How did you open your exam results? Did you cower in a corner furtively reading, and re-reading, the list of letters on the page? Did you tear open the envelope, almost ripping the contents in the process, making it more difficult to decipher? Did you calmly take the results, unopened, home and hand them to your Mum to open for you? Or did you decide it would be a good idea to share your exam news live on television with two million viewers?

A dozen students from the Bristol Brunel Academy and its federation partner, the John Cabot Academy, chose to do the latter when they agreed to open their GCSE results on BBC Breakfast on 21 August. Almost a year after reporting on the opening of the first new build BSF school, the BBC's education correspondent Sarah Campbell returned to Bristol Brunel Academy to hand students their results live on air while teaching staff and parents looked on. The students - and Bristol Brunel's Principal, Armando Di-Finizio (pictured right, with head boy Chris Holbourn and head girl Amie Gazzard) - were at times overwhelmed, as well as overjoyed, by the results.

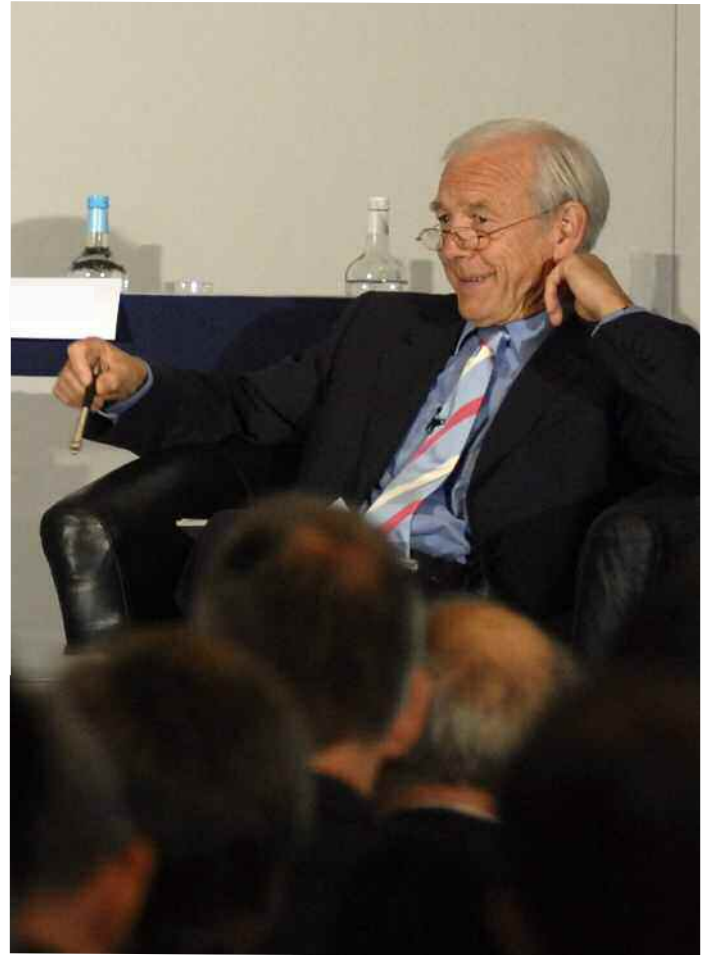
After just a year in the new school the percentage of students achieving top GCSE grades almost doubled. This year 35% of students received at least GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and Maths, up from 19% in 2007.

Principal Armando Di-Finizio shared laughter, tears and bacon sandwiches with his students as they found out the results of their hard work. A new start in a new building has, he believes, played a part in raising aspirations and attainment.

"Throughout the year we have never let students forget how they felt on their first day in the new school, and how awe inspired they were by the building and facilities," he said. "We talk to them about how special the school is, and what a gift it has been for the local community. A new start in a new school has allowed us to work on changing the ethos with the students, raising their confidence and self belief.

"The whole school team has been 100% committed to making Bristol Brunel Academy a success, and the personalised learning agenda - working on an individual basis with every student has made a real difference." Of the four mainstream BSF secondary schools





PfS Annual Conference 2008

Thursday 18 September saw one of the highlights on the BSF calendar take place - the PFS Annual Conference. Held at the Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square, this one day event was themed '*Delivering Sustainable Success Through BSF*'. Sold out weeks in advance, the conference was attended by over 450 delegates from the government, private sector and public sector, making it our largest conference to date.

The jam-packed timetable included workshops on pre-procurement, procurement and operational LEPS, each hosted by specialists from PFS and presided over by a panel of experts in the three respective fields.

This year's conference was made particularly memorable by the presence of a well-known figure, broadcaster John Humphrys, who hosted a 'Question Time' session, which saw a panel of experienced faces in BSF - Tim Byles (Chief Executive, PFS), Sir John Sorrell (Co-Chair, Sorrell Foundation), Graham Badman (Kent County Council), Heather Scott (Deputy Head, Allerton High School), Chris Whitehead (Chair, PPP Forum) and Barbara Spicer (Chief Executive, Salford City Council) - answer a variety of topical questions from the conference audience. Questions were asked about the nature of successful partnering, the procurement review on BSF published in May 2008, as well as on the ongoing DCSF consultation on BSF, amongst others.

Another highlight of the day was John Humphrys' live interview with PFS Chief Executive, Tim Byles (pictured, above). The interviewer stuck to his infamous, challenging style, asking questions on some of the more controversial aspects of BSF, including the early delays in the programme and the stability of the scheme in light of the current economic climate. Tim Byles held his ground, taking the opportunity to thoroughly and honestly defend the programme in the process. He explained that in order to produce schools of the quality that our children deserve, speed of delivery should not dictate the programme.

Moreover, when John Humphrys contested that the BSF procurement route was not the most cost-effective option, Tim Byles rejected the claim and questioned why spending money on a process that will transform education and the lives of millions of children should be seen as a waste of money.



PfS Annual Conference 2008, cont'd...

Understandably, the current state of the economy resonated throughout the conference, and indeed was directly addressed by James Stewart, Chief Executive of Partnerships UK, in his presentation. He assured those in attendance that in the current climate, there is no better place to be than in public sector infrastructure and predicted that the market will continue to be a safe haven for the private sector in years to come.

In his keynote speech the Minister for Schools, Jim Knight MP, said he was confident that a Minimum Design Standard would be introduced in BSF soon. In addition, the Minister touched upon the findings of the DCSF consultation into future waves of BSF, noting that guidance for local authorities on this matter would be published the following week (as it was, on Monday 22 September). More information on the consultation and Jim Knight's speech can be read in the box, right.

Presentations by David Carter, Executive Principal of Bristol Brunel Academy, and Kim Hindocha, of The Michael Tippett School, reminded us what BSF is really about. Both speakers gave the audience an overview of how their respective schools had changed since being rebuilt under BSF. David Carter, with the support of a member of the school's teaching staff and a student, painted a picture of a vastly improved environment, not just in terms of school building, but student behaviour and results.

Kim Hindocha demonstrated the impact of BSF on her SEN school by giving examples of the astounding developments her students have made in the short time the school has been opened. In her own words: "Our school is a statement that every single child in this country matters".

"...our school is a statement that every single child in this country matters"

For those unable to attend in person slides and audio highlights from a number of the presentations are available to listen to online in the 'Speeches' section of the PfS website (http://www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/media/speeches/sp_2008-09-25-PfS%20conference.jsp)

DCSF consultation on future waves of BSF



In his keynote speech at the PfS Annual Conference, the Minister of State for Schools and Learners, Jim Knight MP, announced that expressions of interest were being invited from all local authorities yet to join BSF.

He told delegates: "To support local authorities further in addressing the needs of their schools and pupils, we are publishing guidance to local authorities on revising their expressions of interest for projects in waves 7 to 15 of the BSF programme.

"The guidance has been developed following the recent consultation, and gives authorities greater flexibility in how they prioritise their projects in response to local need. Our aim is to start all authorities in BSF as soon as practicable with a priority project.

"This means that authorities who are not yet in the programme will be able to propose a small project which includes their neediest schools so that their pupils and staff benefit from this investment as early as is practicable.

"Authorities have until the end of November to respond to this invitation. My aim is to announce a new national programme for Waves 7 to 15 early in 2009, and that PfS will then invite those authorities with the highest prioritised projects to provide evidence that they are ready to deliver. We will also shortly publish the results of the consultation.

"We have worked closely with PfS on this guidance and on the next steps in managing the BSF programme. PfS's involvement has been invaluable, and I am confident that it will significantly strengthen future delivery of the programme."

Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools, said: "With 35 schools now open and 80 local authorities already engaged in BSF, there is real momentum in the programme.

"We recognise that local authorities may have developed their strategy for the delivery of education in their area since the original submissions in 2003. Today's publication of guidance on revising and resubmitting expressions of interest for projects in Wave 7 and beyond will help local authorities to look to the future, keeping educational transformation at the heart of their BSF projects."

The guidance, along with a letter from Sally Brooks, Head of Schools Capital at the DCSF, is available to download from the PfS website. Details about how to make the submission and where to return forms are in the letter.



New BSF schools

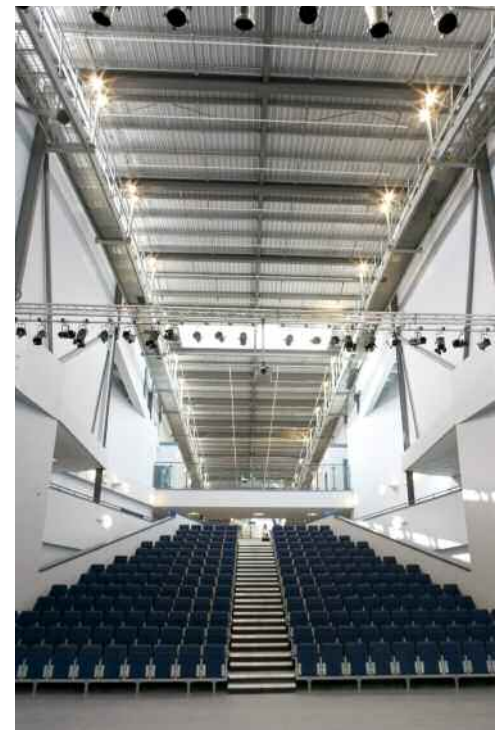
In September, 22 schools opened as part of the BSF programme, bringing the total number of schools delivered to 35. New and refurbished schools in Bradford, Bristol, Lancashire, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Solihull and Waltham Forest welcomed students for the first time.

Tim Byles, who visited Kelmscott School in Waltham Forest on one of their first days of term, along with Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls, and Minister for the Olympics and London, Tessa Jowell, said: "The start of the new term is a very important milestone for thousands of young people and teachers as they go back to brand new learning environments and 21st century facilities that will help them achieve their very best.

"BSF is not just about providing new buildings. It is about providing safe, welcoming and inspirational spaces where all learners are encouraged to reach their full potential.

"This new breed of school provides every young person with a fresh start and new opportunities. A new school of itself is not a panacea, but when seen as a key ingredient alongside strong leadership, an energised teaching staff and engaged parents, the results can be outstanding. BSF schools that have been open for a year or more are already showing an impressive step-change in attainment, attendance and aspiration and I look forward to these success stories being replicated for every young person up and down the country."

The innovative and inspirational features of the new BSF schools include a 'school within a school' at Brislington Enterprise College in Bristol where students will be placed in one of five 'learning communities' where they will spend more than half of their time with just 16 members of staff; a campus model at Burnley in Lancashire - with nursery, primary, SEN and sixth form provision on site - plus community facilities in the shape of a new library; and a multi-faith centre, which will be used by the local residents as well as students and teachers at Allerton High School in Leeds.



Pictured, this page, from top: Pendle Vale College, Lancashire - external view and the new auditorium

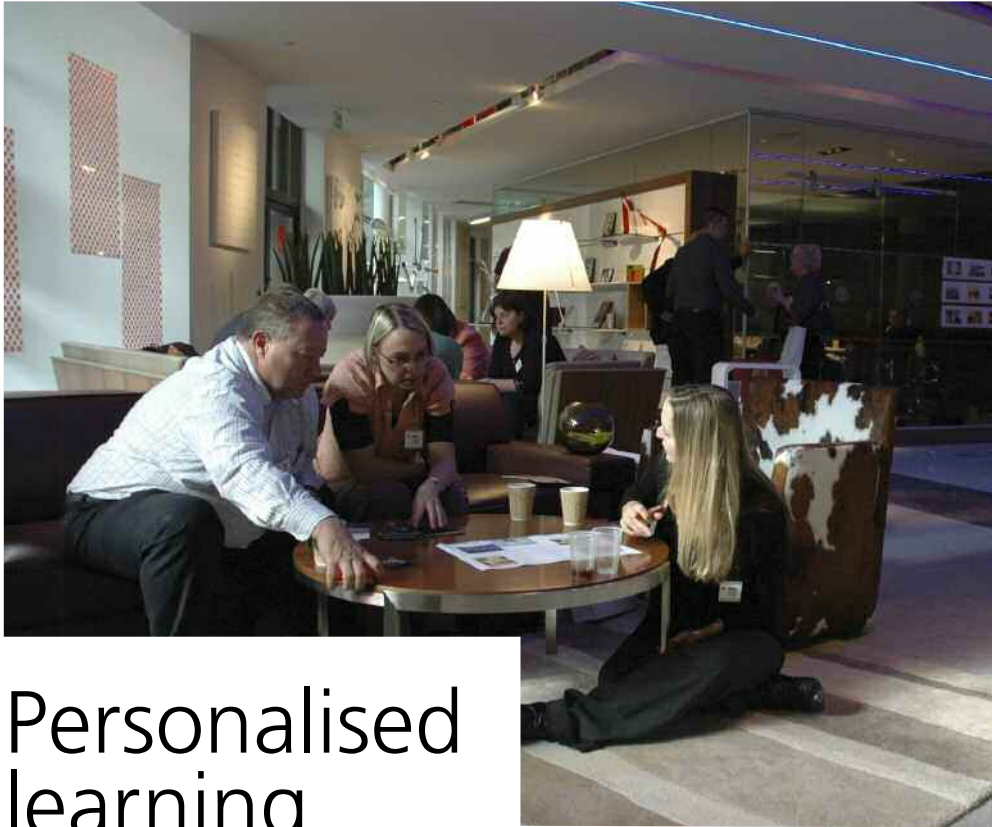
Front cover pictures:

From top: Shuttleworth College, Lancashire; gardens at Lanchester School, Solihull; science labs at Gorton Education Village, Manchester; open-plan toilets at Allerton High School, Leeds



Pictured, this page, clockwise from top left:
Brislington Enterprise College, Bristol;
Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College, Bradford;
Frederick Bremer, Waltham Forest;
Newall Green High School, Manchester;
pupils at Gorton Education Village, Manchester;





Personalised learning

Personalised learning is a key driver of the Government's transformational education agenda and is central to the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) Children's Plan. New and refurbished schools offer leadership teams a fresh opportunity to explore how personalised learning can work for them. Darren Atkinson, Senior Consultant of DEGW, explains a new initiative to understand the impact of student-led learning on school design.

In July 2008 the DCSF commissioned DEGW to lead an ambitious piece of work to explore 'Space for personalised Learning' and the implications for spatial design. DEGW is an international design and consultancy firm that focuses on the planning and design of transformational workplace and learning environments.

"Ten pilot projects in schools across England will explore how aspects of personalised learning can be implemented in different contexts."

If you would like your BSF project to feature in the next edition of *Insite*, please contact us at insite@p4s.org.uk

The picture above shows the space4PL team – DEGW, EdisonLearning, Futurelab and Penoyre & Prasad; LA officers, headteachers and teachers at the first 'Space for Personalised Learning' workshop, held on Monday 29 September at the Herman Miller National Design Centre.

DEGW has assembled an integrated team of experts to undertake this study. Penoyre & Prasad bring their experience of designing high quality learning environments; Futurelab provide specialist educational transformation knowledge and will lead project evaluation; and EdisonLearning has extensive experience of educational transformation at both a national and international level. Design and educational specialists from Partnerships for Schools will bring their experience of the BSF to inform the project.

The study will explore how the whole school environment can support personalised learning and identify key accommodation features required to achieve this. We will be considering all aspects of design from the re-imagining of the timetable, through to school organisation, and further to the design and configuration of furniture, use of colour and flexible spaces.

Initial research is generating a framework for personalised learning that schools and local authorities can use to begin considering the implications of personalised approaches to learning and teaching. We are already beginning to establish principles for the design and use of space in both new-build and refurbished primary and secondary schools as well as other types of schools such as all-through schools.

Ten pilot projects in primary, secondary and all-through schools across England will explore how aspects of personalised learning can be implemented in different contexts. Six of these pilots will be relatively short and small scale, focused on how and where interventions might be possible. The other four will be whole school personalisation pilots conducted within the structure of the BSF and PCP redevelopment of the selected schools.

Emerging from each of the ten pilot projects will be a design methodology that can be adopted by a wide range of stakeholders to develop local solutions that meet their vision for Personalised Learning. Extensive case study material will share both best and next practice with educationalists, designers and strategists across the education sector drawing upon outcomes from each pilot and parallel activity beyond the project. The project will create a framework for schools and LAs to define their vision and strategy for personalised learning; synthesising challenges, principles, strategies and design approaches to create a 'Learnscape' for Personalised Learning.

"case study material will share both best and next practice"

This is an ambitious research project that will have a significant impact on the future of school design. To achieve this ambition it is critical to engage a wide variety of stakeholders to ensure their views are understood and represented. Rather than relying on a single publication at the end of the project, a wide range of dissemination and communication activities are planned throughout the duration of the project to ensure immediate impact on current educational building programmes.

This is a project for all places where learning happens; people are encouraged to take the tools and methods and use them for their projects, and share the outcomes to benefit the wider programme. A website will be launched shortly with information and ideas as the project develops - more details will be published in *Insite* and on the PfS website as the project begins to publish results.

Future events

Partnerships for Schools
& *Education Guardian*
Design Conference,
26 November 2008

Mermaid Events Centre,
London EC4

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE 2008

Using design, architecture and sustainability to help deliver educational transformation

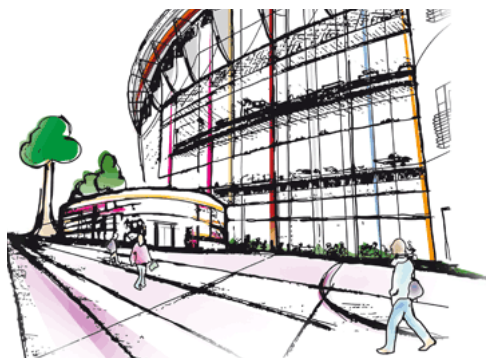
A one-day conference from Partnerships for Schools and Education Guardian, bringing together experts in design and education to help BSF stakeholders to improve learning and achievement for children and young people.

Speakers include:

- Tim Byles CBE, Chief Executive, PFS
- Ann Finlayson, Sustainable Development Commission
- Sir John Sorrell, The Sorrell Foundation
- John Matthews, Brislington Enterprise College
- Richard Simmons, CABE

The conference is free to attend for those working in the public sector, with special rates available for private sector delegates.

For more details, call 01462 744052 or visit the website at www.guardian.co.uk/buildingschools



Excellence in BSF Awards
26 November 2008

The Brewery, Chiswell St
London EC1

The first PFS Annual awards were announced in July.

The categories in the Excellence in BSF Awards 2008 are:

- Best Design for a New School
- Best Design for a Remodelled School
- Most Promising Learning Strategy
- Innovation in Student Engagement
- Innovation in ICT
- Most Sustainable School Design
- Best Community Integration
- Best Operational LEP
- Best BSF Academy
- Best School Team

In addition, there will be a Grand Prix prize for the Most Transformational Team. This award will be determined by the independent panel of judges.

Nominations for the awards closed on September 30. The full results and winners will be published on the PFS website and will be featured in the Christmas issue of *Insite*.

The judging panels include experts with a variety of interests in BSF and education issues, including Sir John Sorrell, Professor Stephen Heppell, Professor Tim Brighouse, Stephen Crowne (CEO of Becta), Chris Whitehead (Chair of the PPP Education Forum), Sue Campbell CBE (Chair of the Youth Sports Trust), and Robin Nicholson CBE (Chair of the Zero Carbon Task Force).

The awards ceremony will be hosted by actor and comedian Rob Brydon at The Brewery in London on 26 November.

More information about the awards can be found at: www.p4sawards.org.uk

2009

BETT 2009
14-17 January 2009
Olympia, London

BETT celebrates 25 years as the world's leading educational information and communications technology (ICT) event in 2009. Partnerships for Schools will once again be contributing to the seminar programme, and will be supporting the Future Schools feature that launched in 2008.

www.bettshow.com

BSEC 2009
11-12 February 2009
Manchester Central

BSEC covers the government's school building programmes - BSF, Academies and the Primary Capital Programme - in addition to traditional PFI projects. It focuses on the construction, maintenance, ICT, design and the general infrastructure of all schools - new, refurbished and old.

PFS will again be supporting the event, and will be exhibiting at the show in addition to providing speakers to the main seminar programme and workshop streams.

www.buildingschools.co.uk

Education Show 2009
26-28 March 2009
NEC, Birmingham

The Education Show 2009 is the UK's largest showcase of educational resources of all kinds. Partnerships for Schools will once again be contributing to the seminar programme at The Education Show in 2009.

www.education-show.com



The *Insite* Interview

Kirsty Thirwell,
Chief Executive,
Aura Newcastle Ltd

What difference do you think BSF and the Academies programme will make to young people?

My hope is that it makes a significant difference to young people and their attitude to school, making them feel enthused and valued. However the proof of the pudding is in the eating; I quote from one of our students who has recently started in their new BSF school 'I love it, I love the library, I love the computers and I'm not going home, I'm staying here'.

If we can achieve this feeling in our students, build on it and sustain it, we will have gone a long way to making a real difference.

What do you see as the key opportunities and challenges in BSF?

The biggest challenge and opportunity is getting it right, which in this sense means finding a way to move on with education. I often hear the question 'is this transformational?' It's a good question and one which must be asked time and time again. The challenge is to strive for transformation in all aspects at all times. There are always the constraints of money, time and physically what can be achieved but long after we have finished building and refurbishing we must have left our children and teaching staff with the right tools for the future.

Minister for Schools, Jim Knight has recently announced that those local authorities not yet in the programme will be joining BSF earlier than was previously possible. What advice would you give to those about to embark upon their BSF projects?

The one piece of advice that I would give is the least tangible to deliver, namely, the importance of 'partnership'. Getting this right is the most important feature in delivering projects of this size and complexity. Time invested in building the partnership with the people that collectively will bring BSF and Academies to life, is time well spent. There are many hurdles along the way, none of which can't be overcome with a sensible partnering relationship.

"The challenge is to strive for transformation in all aspects, at all times."

"Getting partnership right is the most important feature in delivering projects of this size and complexity."

In your career, what are you most proud of to date?

This has to be the expressions on the faces of the people who walk into their new building for the first time. Over my career, I have worked to deliver many projects including hospitals and schools and each time I'm caught out by the emotion. We recently handed over the first phase of my old school and I spoke to the Chair of Governors on the handover day and he was genuinely emotional; he told me that he had been excited all week and was desperate to get into the school. That makes me proud.

Finally, the 'non-BSF' question. Which three people – dead, alive or fictional – would you like to have dinner with?

I would like to go back in time and have dinner with John de Mol who brought us Big Brother and try and put him off the idea, Aaron Sorkin who wrote the West Wing to find out how he foresaw events that subsequently happened in real life and finally Oliver Postgate who invented The Clangers to find out what was going on there!