



Insite

Partnerships for Schools
Quarterly
Winter 2009/10



Welcome to the winter 2009 edition of *Insite*.

As the year draws to a close and we come to the end of the school term, here at Partnerships for Schools we are celebrating the successes of the BSF programme in 2009. With 132 schools now benefitting from capital investment, 59 of which have opened since the start of the 2009/10 financial year, over 100,000 pupils across England are now enjoying the opportunities their 21st century learning environments bring.

Between January and December 2009, 19 BSF schemes reached Financial Close, the latest being Newcastle City Council in November, and both Greenwich Council and, jointly, Salford and Wigan councils in December, with more to come before Christmas.

We are also very pleased that on 30 November the Secretary for State, Ed Balls, announced that 13 local authorities across England - from Darlington in the north to Plymouth in the south - have been given the go ahead to rebuild or refurbish secondary schools in their area as part of the BSF programme (full details on these authorities can be found in the feature on page 4). As part of the Pre-Budget Report it was announced that spending on education will be protected from future cuts so we look forward to 2010 bringing in more deals and opening more schools to provide even more young people with new and improved learning environments.

November also saw Pfs unveil the four main areas of inquiry which will be explored as part of a new Procurement Review designed to reduce further both timescales and costs in

the BSF programme. You can read more about the announcement and these efficiencies on page 6.

Also in November we announced a new initiative that will see display meters being made available for schools from January 2010, helping them to manage their energy usage more effectively and instil the importance of sustainable practices into all young people.

The year was also a success in terms of the Pfs calendar of events, which have served to share best practice and lessons learned, as well as celebrate the innovative projects that are creating new learning environments and community services the length and breadth of the country.

The Pfs Annual Conference in September saw leaders from local government, industry and government officials come together to debate and discuss the main issues affecting schools capital programmes, as we learn from the early projects and look to continually improve those yet to come. Local authorities and schools also brought their experiences to the event and we had a live Outside Broadcast to the newly opened Beaumont Leys School in Leicester, which went on to win the Grand Prix award at the *Excellence in BSF Awards 2009*.

The awards ceremony in London was a huge success. Twenty-eight projects were commended with local authorities, schools and private sector partners receiving recognition for their hard work and dedication to the BSF programme. The Design Conference, which took place at the British

Museum in November, featured keynotes from eminent architects in the design community and education sector alike and was attended by a good mix of designers, local authorities, academics and schools.

We are also looking forward to BETT 2010, the world's largest education technology show, where Pfs will be discussing the innovations in technology use in schools and the difference this is making to the outcomes for young people – both on our dedicated stand and seminar theatre and on the main BETT seminar programme as well.

We hope you find this edition of *Insite* a useful update on progress and developments in the schools capital programmes. As ever, if there are topics or specific projects that you would like to hear more about, please do get in touch with the team.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Byles'.

Tim Byles CBE
Chief Executive



Schools project progress

Some of the latest schools to benefit from investment are:

Local Authority	School	Opened	Programme
Barnet	Edgware Juniors & Infants	September 09	PCP
	Hyde Primary School	September 09	PCP
Ealing	John Perryn Primary	September 09	PCP
Hackney	Clapton Girls Technology College	September 09	BSF
	Stoke Newington School	September 09	BSF
Haringey	Alexandra Park School	September 09	BSF
	Hornsey School for Girls	September 09	BSF
	Park View Academy	September 09	Academies
Kent	Oakfield Primary	September 09	PCP
Knowsley	Huyton Arts & Sports Centre for Learning	September 09	BSF
	Kirkby Sports College	September 09	BSF
	Knowsley Park Centre for Learning	September 09	BSF
Lancashire	Ridgewood Community High School (SEN)	September 09	BSF
	Sir John Thursby Community College	September 09	BSF
Manchester	Enterprise Academy	September 09	Academies
	Health Academy	September 09	Academies
	St Agnes Primary	September 09	PCP
North Somerset	Nailsea School	September 09	OSP
North Yorkshire	Richmond School (sixth form)	September 09	OSP
Nottingham	Oak Field School & Sports College	November 09	BSF
Solihull	Kingfisher Primary	September 09	PCP
	Kinghurst Primary	September 09	PCP
South Tyneside	Jarrow School	November 09	BSF
	Mortimer Community College	September 09	BSF
Sunderland	Academy 360	September 09	Academies
	Castle View Enterprise Academy	September 09	Academies
	Red House Academy	September 09	Academies
	Sandhill View	September 09	BSF
	Washington School	September 09	BSF
Torbay	Foxholes Primary	September 09	PCP
	Curledge Street	September 09	PCP

BSF progress

Schools benefitting from BSF investment (including Academies)	132
Deals closed	46
LEPs formed	26
Non-LEP schemes	9
No. of local authorities in programme	96

Primaries progress

No. of schools open	27
No. of new builds	13
No. of refurbishments	14
No. of exemplar projects	23

Academies progress

Projects on site	28
Projects in procurement	157
LEPs/BSF	80
Academies Framework	92
Other procurement route	1

News in brief

This section 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 news item that you think *Insite* readers would be interested in, please send it to insite@p4s.org.uk.

Pupils and teachers at the Bolsover School in Derbyshire have created a video to showcase their creative side. The video features a fantastically choreographed dance routine to the song 'Jai Ho' from the recent *Slumdog Millionaire* film. The school is being completely rebuilt as part of the county's Wave 3 BSF project. You can view the film here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ORaSmJqWA>



In November, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Wearside to perform the official opening at the new Washington School, a specialist technology college that is a flagship of Sunderland City Council's BSF scheme. Her Majesty found herself back in the classroom as she unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion, while the Duke toured the 1,000-pupil school separately. The Queen then visited the cookery room where she sampled buns and cakes before turning her hand to computer skills in the IT department. Headteacher Michael O'Brien said he was delighted the royal couple had accepted their invitation. "We've known about this for about 18 months," he said. "We knew they were interested in sustainability and that's something this new building has been designed on. Every pupil played their part, whether it was flag waving or doing cookery demonstrations."

Bristol Brunel Academy played host to celebrity chef Martin Blunos who officially opened the school's café in November. Eighteen Business Studies students worked on 'Espresso @ Brunel' which is designed to give them real life experience of catering and retail. Mr Blunos said: "The students are to be congratulated in setting up this exciting new café which I'm sure

will prove to be popular with not just their fellow students but also other users of the Academy."

Michael Faraday primary school, which serves one of South London's biggest housing estates, has been revealed as one of the 20 best in the country by Ofsted. The school is being refurbished as part of Southwark Council's BSF programme. Inspectors praised the school in Walworth for its "outstanding" features, saying it had "excelled against the odds." Headteacher Karen Fowler said: "We have an amazing team who know where we want to go and we've got the right sort of people on board with a shared vision of what we are trying to achieve at the school."

Champion boxer Ricky Hatton attended the *Young Apprentice of the Year Award* ceremony held in October at Manchester's Town Hall to mark the achievements of young apprentices working across the city. Ricky presented the winners with their awards and congratulated them on their significant achievements, as well as commending the valuable work experience provided by Manchester Working and Manchester City Council through the scheme. BSF and Academy contractors have taken on a number of apprentices, providing them with practical knowledge of the world of work and helping them gain the skills and experience needed to compete effectively for jobs.



Tottenham students had a cooking masterclass from a professional chef to celebrate the opening of the new food technology classrooms at Northumberland Park Community School, which is part of Haringey Council's BSF project. Gordon Ramsay-trained Adebola Adeshina, co-owner and head chef of Tottenham restaurant, The Lock, gave a full cooking demonstration to the school's Year 10 BTEC Hospitality students. The school's new food technology classrooms have a new professional teaching area and 28 workstations – each with hob, oven and sink – where the pupils were helped to understand the importance of seasonal produce as they cooked a mouth-watering dish. Chef Ade said: "It was great to work with the school and give the students an insight into being a chef. Children are our future and it was good for them to enjoy and think about a career in catering."

As part of a wider transformation scheme in the area, 10 young people from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets have been recruited by construction company Bouygues UK for a two-year apprenticeship scheme. Bouygues UK is responsible for the design and construction of the Tower Hamlets BSF programme, which is rebuilding and remodelling 18 schools in the borough into top quality learning centres over a period of 10 years. Kevan Collins, Interim Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Council, said: "It's fantastic news that local people are able to benefit from this scheme and play a part in building the future of our borough. The council is committed to working with our partners to get local people into local jobs and to develop the skills of our young people. I hope this kind of opportunity will give these trainees skills for life and the chance to pursue a career in construction. I wish them every success."



Bristol's Bridge Learning Campus received royal approval when Princess Anne officially opened the school in November. It is a specialist engineering school and so fittingly the Princess Royal was presented with models of, amongst other things, Isambard Kingdom Brunel raising his hat, the SS Great Britain and the Clifton Suspension Bridge – all famous symbols of Bristol. The Campus opened to pupils in January 2009 as part of Bristol's Wave 1 BSF project. Bristol South MP Dawn Primarolo, who missed the start of the first day back at the House of Commons to attend the opening, said: "I can't believe the transformation. Hard work has made sure that today we are here in a building on a campus that people all over the country are looking at."

A pioneering school in Bolton is staking a claim to make its pupils among the most technologically advanced in Britain. Pupils and teachers at the Essa Academy, part of Bolton Council's BSF project, have each been issued with an iPod Touch. A bespoke wi-fi system, with 130 access points around the school, means that children never lose connectivity. When teachers are pleased with a piece of work, they can ask a child to email it to them and, using laptops and a projector, display it on a wall or screen to show the class. Next spring, work will begin to upgrade the school. It will have a 3D audio visual theatre, writeable glass walls and Britain's first zero-carbon classroom.



New school building plans confirmed

Twelve projects across England - from Darlington in the north to Plymouth in the south - have been given the go ahead to rebuild or refurbish secondary schools in their area as part of the BSF programme.

The 12 projects are: Brent, Darlington, Devon, Havering, Kingston & Croydon (in a joint project), Lancashire, Norfolk, Plymouth, Sefton, Tameside, Wakefield and Warrington. Each of these will embark on their BSF schemes between January and March 2010.

The authorities were confirmed following a rigorous selection process in which they demonstrated they were ready to hit the ground running with their projects to renew the secondary schools estate in their area.

In its new capacity as the delivery organisation for all capital investment programmes, Pfs has also confirmed funding for three local authorities to progress their plans for local delivery of the primary capital programme. Hammersmith & Fulham, Leicestershire and Medway have had their Strategy for Change submissions signed off, guaranteeing additional funding for 2010-11.

Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Pfs, said: "With over 110,000 pupils already benefitting from BSF investment, this announcement will boost this growing figure over the coming years.

"As well as delivering the new schools facilities that teachers and pupils deserve to every community, BSF will also help safeguard tens of thousands of jobs on the ground in the construction and related industries.

"Teachers, parents and pupils in the 132 schools already open throughout England bear witness to the positive difference that BSF is making in their local community. Building on the work already done, we will work in partnership with these new authorities - through both the BSF and Primary Capital programmes - to ensure that this experience and impact is replicated across the country.

"Teachers, parents and pupils in the 132 schools already open bear witness to the positive difference that BSF is making..."

"We look forward to working with the local authority teams nationwide to help deliver schools fit for the 21st century, and to ensure that taxpayers get maximum value from every education pound spent."

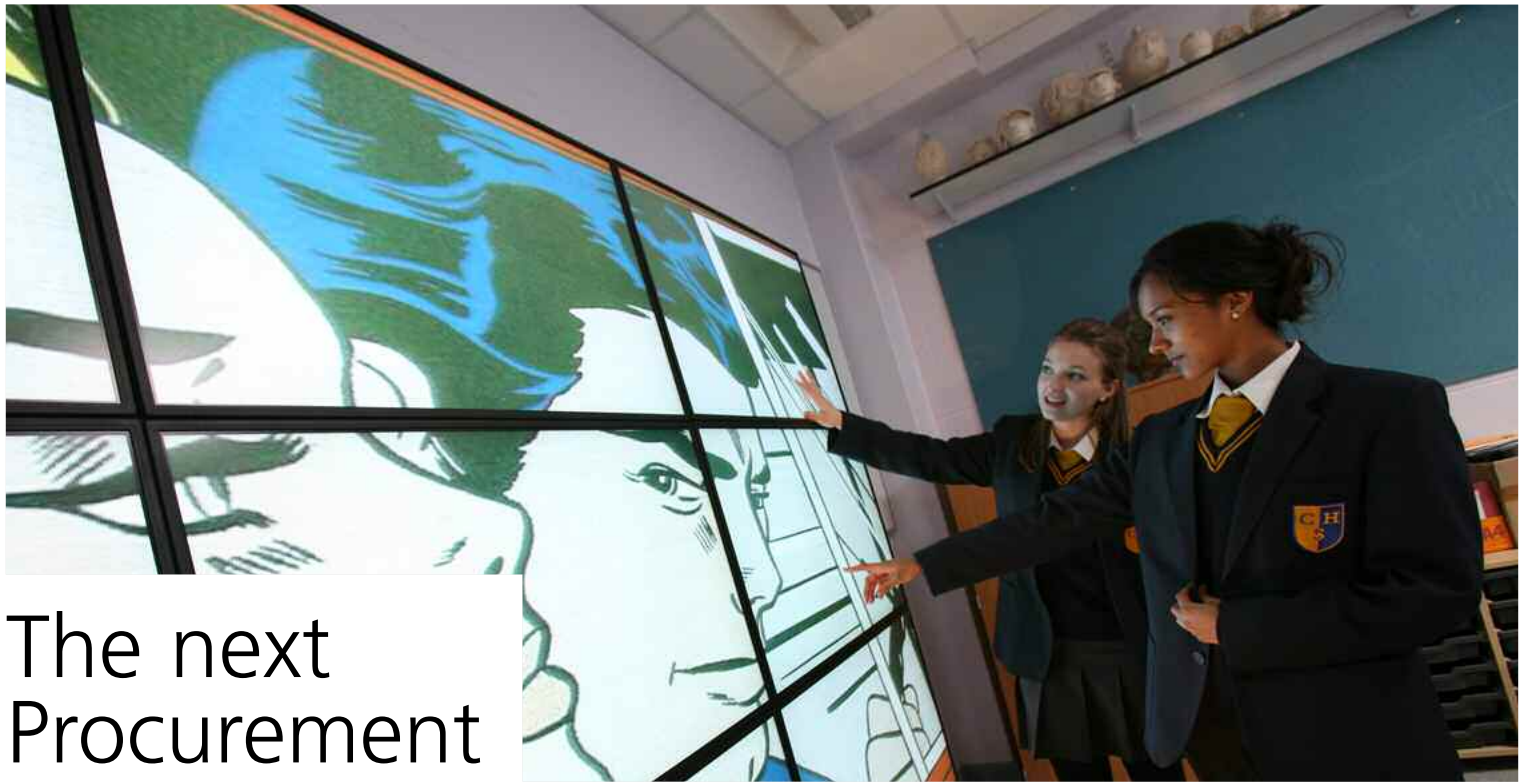
Today's announcement sees up to a further £1bn of funding committed to schools around the country. The 10 projects new to BSF will share up to £800m of funding enabling them to bring forward their first batch of secondary schools to rebuild or refurbish, meaning that local authorities are able to start their BSF schemes earlier than had previously been thought. The announcement means that Lancashire and Tameside local authorities, who are already in the BSF programme, can begin on the next stage of their projects.

The second half of the BSF programme kicked

off in July 2009 with the first cohort in a series of 'rolling starts' for the 70 local authorities yet to join BSF or start follow-on projects, and a timetable for up to 18 projects to start within the financial year 2009-10.

Momentum has built quickly this year with 132 schools benefitting from BSF investment now open, more than double the number in December 2008; and 46 deals have now reached financial close with more expected before the end of 2009.





The next Procurement Review

The four main areas of inquiry that will be explored as part of a new Procurement Review were revealed at PfS's second annual design conference in November.

Designed to reduce both timescales and costs in the BSF programme, Chief Executive Tim Byles said that the new exercise would build upon the previous review which is already helping to reduce procurement timescales by up to two months and reducing costs across the programme by £250 million.

He added: "As I made clear at the time, the previous review resulted in significant time and cost savings, but we would keep our eyes resolutely fixed on streamlining processes further, cutting red tape and ensuring that every education pound is being well spent.

"Today I am pleased to share with the BSF community the four pillars which will form the foundations of our second procurement review, and which together will help us to make significant inroads towards the ultimate goal of a 52-week procurement.

"By exploring possible steps such as a centralised PQQ process, the use of exemplar sample designs, and looking again at where ICT procurement fits in the process could all hold the key to improved timeliness and cost effectiveness, ensuring pupils, teachers, parents and local communities benefit from new learning environments earlier than previously possible."

The four areas of inquiry are:

1. A centralised Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) process: this would negate the need for bidders to go through the PQQ process each time they bid for a

scheme which takes around 10 weeks off the 75-week procurement timeframe.

2. Sampling design in a different way: it is a legal requirement to test both the bidder and the bid, and so sampling designs will remain a key feature of the BSF procurement process. Options to be explored include the use of exemplar samples or reducing the number of sample designs required to one PFI school, with a schedule of rates for the Design & Build scheme.

3. ICT procurement: looking again at whether this can be done in a different way, including early funding for ICT in schools that are in later phases of BSF, and in what circumstances separate ICT will be permissible.

4. Improved timetabling: ensuring that BSF and key local authority committee meetings are synchronised to help speed up decision making.

PfS will also be working closely with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to explore the possibility of introducing a model in which local authorities appoint a design team from a pre-selected framework to develop exemplar designs for the sample scheme in their BSF bid process.

Commenting on this proposal Tim Byles said: "The initial procurement review which took place in 2008 has already introduced a number of efficiencies to the processes that support BSF and streamlined how bidders' designs are tested as part of that. With 47 deals now concluded, representing over £5bn of investment, the market is now maturing and we are in a position to introduce further improvements.

"Building on the useful work that has been done on proposals for 'Smart PFI' over the past three years, we have established that

there is now no legal impediment to the final proposals produced by the RIBA. There remain, however, a number of issues to resolve in terms of deliverability, for example ensuring continuous improvement; integration; how to test partnership working; and securing genuine risk transfer. Whilst not insignificant, these issues need not be insurmountable, and working with the RIBA I look forward to exploring this approach as a live option going forward. We are looking to ensure that revised proposals for procurement for BSF will be useful in reuse of existing buildings that are not currently being used for education, as well as refurbishing schools and new build solutions."

Under the modified version of the RIBA's Smart BSF model, bidders would be invited to bring innovation to the way the exemplar design is developed and delivered, without reducing the quality of the design. The developed design would then be taken forward by the selected bidder once they have been appointed.

Ruth Reed, President of the RIBA, said: "A good procurement process starts with good preparation by the client, ensuring maximum contact between the clients/users and the designers, and proceeds efficiently to build an integrated design and construction team to deliver the project. 'Smart PFI' was the RIBA's proposal to bring these principles to public private partnerships while adhering to European Procurement Rules. Having contributed to earlier reviews of BSF, we are pleased to be taking part in the current one. The bidding climate has changed and new priorities are emerging, such as the need to recognise a larger element of refurbishment within BSF. We would also like to see opportunities in BSF to be open to smaller firms and new blood, particularly once a programme is established."



New Contractors' Framework

In October 2009, the 15 companies that secured a place on the £4 billion framework to procure the design and build of Academies and other educational facilities in local authorities were confirmed. £600m worth of contracts are expected to start procurement using the new Contractors' Framework in the first six to seven months of operation.

The Contractors' Framework will operate across two discrete geographical areas. The first area will be made up of the North and Midlands; the second will be made up of London, South and South East.

Tim Byles, Chief Executive of PfS, said: "Through the existing PfS National Framework, the cost of procuring new Academy schools has already reduced by around 30 per cent delivering excellent value for money to the taxpayer. Building on this success, we are now unveiling a new framework, creating more opportunities for large and medium-sized construction companies across the country, during what are undoubtedly challenging times for the sector.

"With contracts in the region of £600m coming to market in the first seven months alone, the new framework gives the successful contractors access to a predictable flow of work, supported by direct grant Government funding.

"The new framework will secure the future work stream, maintaining the focus on streamlined and accelerated delivery of education investment in Academies, smaller BSF schemes and other education facilities, with the first schools to be procured through the new framework opening their gates in September 2012.

"The existing Academies Framework has demonstrated the value of this approach – both educationally and to the public purse – and I am pleased that we are able to build on the foundations laid while extending the opportunity for regional bidders, as well as larger national firms, to get involved."

The new framework will operate in tandem with the existing PfS National Framework, which will continue to operate until December 2010.

"The existing Academies framework has demonstrated the real value of this approach – both educationally and to the public purse..."

Local authorities that are currently engaged in the BSF programme will continue to procure academies through Local Education Partnerships (LEPs) in the same way as other educational facilities. The procurement and project management expertise which PfS already provides to the BSF programme will ensure that similar economies of scale continue to be achieved through the Academies programme, and that it is delivered in the most cost-effective and efficient way.

The companies appointed to the Contractors' Framework (alphabetically by geographical area) are:

North and Midlands

- Balfour Beatty Construction
- BAM Construction
- Bovis Lend Lease
- Carillion Construction
- Clugston Construction
- Interserve Projects Services
- Kier Regional
- Shepherd Construction
- Sir Robert McAlpine
- VINCI Construction
- Wates
- Willmott Dixon

London, South and South East

- Apollo Property Services
- Balfour Beatty Construction
- BAM Construction
- Bovis Lend Lease
- Carillion Construction
- Interserve Projects Services
- JB Leadbitter & Co
- Kier Regional
- Rydon Group
- Sir Robert McAlpine
- Wates
- Willmott Dixon



Display meters for sustainable schools

On 26 November 2009, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, announced a £12m investment in new energy display meters to provide schools with real-time digital information about their electricity use from January next year.

This investment means that from January 2010, primary and secondary schools across England will be able to apply for a meter which will give a second-by-second reading on how much electricity a building is using. Pupils and staff will be able to see immediately the impact of switching on and off individual pieces of electrical equipment, computers and lights on easy-to-read display monitors.

PfS will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of the new display meters project, working in partnership with British Gas, as the selected private sector partner.

Tim Byles, Chief Executive of PfS, said: "Pupils across England are some of the keenest sustainability champions around. In BSF schools where display meters are already in operation we have seen young people and teachers enthusiastically using this data to show how simple changes in behaviour can make a real difference.

"Research by the Carbon Trust shows that display meters and wider behavioural changes in using energy could see 10 to 15 per cent cuts in fuel bills – meaning the average one-form primary school could save up to £700 a year and the average 900-pupil secondary

school more than £3,000 a year on fuel bills alone.

"But the use of this technology is also a great way to harness young people's interest in the environment and embed behaviours which they can use beyond the school gates, and we look forward to seeing the difference that this important investment will make."

"Research by the Carbon Trust shows that display meters and wider behavioural changes in using energy could see 10 to 15 per cent cuts in fuel bills..."

Kanat Emiroglu, Managing Director of British Gas Business said: "Building on our market leading position on smart metering, this major project is an excellent opportunity to combine British Gas's energy services expertise with our leading environmental schools programme, Generation Green. These meter displays will provide the opportunity for teachers and pupils to learn about climate change, energy efficiency and carbon budgeting in an exciting and interactive way, whilst also allowing schools to manage and reduce their energy costs."

The display meters project was announced as part of the publication of the discussion document *Securing Our Future – Using Our Resources Well*.

The meters will be provided with software that allows clear, easy-to-read displays to a nominated PC in a prominent place within the school so that pupils, teachers and wider users of the school can monitor electricity use. Schools will be given instructions for how the meter should be used, and guidance on how it can support teaching and learning and raise awareness. School maintenance staff will also be able to use the data to inform decisions about how to make energy savings.





PfS Events 2009

PfS remains committed to sharing knowledge and best practice from across the schools capital community – two high-profile events in November and our Annual Conference in September did just that, bringing together stakeholders from across the BSF, Academies and PCP communities.

Annual Conference

Thursday 12 September saw one of the highlights in the PfS calendar take place - the PfS Annual Conference. Held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in the Southbank Centre, this one day event was themed 'One Conversation' reflecting PfS's new responsibilities that mean that local authorities can have a single conversation about all schools capital matters in the future.

Hosted by BBC journalist and *Newsnight* presenter, Emily Maitlis, the conference was attended by over 500 delegates from government and the private and public sectors, making it our largest conference to date. The jam-packed timetable included panel discussions looking at the current issues impacting on the BSF programme, such as the economic climate, the introduction of the Minimum Design Standard and potential future influences on the program.

This year's conference was made particularly memorable by the *Newsnight*-style grilling of Tim Byles by Emily Maitlis. Questions she posed focused on the delays and cost over-runs associated with the programme. Addressing the delays, Tim Byles responded that PfS has met or exceeded all delivery targets for the past three years and is on track to deliver the whole programme by 2023.

He also dismissed the cost over-runs saying

that PfS's budgets have increased to reflect the extra responsibilities the organisation has taken on in running the Academies and Co-location programmes.

The interview with five-times Olympic gold medallist Sir Steve Redgrave was truly inspirational and the audience were keen to quiz him on his school days and the difference he sees the BSF programme making to the pupils of today.

While the Main Stage sessions concentrated on the big themes and issues of the day, the Fringe saw more niche presentations from schools, local authorities, private sector and pupils on subjects ranging from Local Education Partnerships and Student Engagement to Co-location and Sustainability.

The event was hugely successful and kicked off a season of PfS events that aimed to



celebrate the successes to date and constantly improve the delivery of schools building programmes.

Excellence in BSF Awards

The second *Excellence in BSF Awards* ceremony took place on 12 November in the Great Room at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London. Hosted by comedian and *Mock the Week* star, Dara Ó Briain, the glittering celebration was attended by 1,000 school, local authority and private sector representatives.

The awards celebrate excellence and showcase best practice amongst all those involved in BSF projects, with entries from local authorities, private sector and schools.

More than 100 entries were received for the 18 categories, with the winner of the nineteenth 'Grand Prix' category being selected from the shortlisted nominations. The high standard of all of these submissions was commented on by Tim Byles, Chief Executive of PfS and Chair of the *Excellence in BSF Awards* overarching judging panel. He said: "This year's entries captured the excitement, innovation and real sense of the difference BSF is making to young people, to teachers and to communities across the country, making it an even tougher job for us to select the winners from across the 19 categories.

"Each of our award-winning and highly commended projects is a shining beacon of how BSF is having a positive impact on so many areas of life: from getting pupils

PfS Events 2009, cntd.

involved in making decisions about their new schools; providing buildings and facilities which can be used by the entire community for education and leisure; developing robust public-private partnerships that deliver value for money to the public purse; and giving leadership teams the chance to implement new strategies to help students reach their full potential."

Whilst each of the winners of an *Excellence in BSF Award* were all recognised as shining examples of the difference BSF can make, for the judges one project shone more brightly than the rest and so deserved special recognition.

Beaumont Leys School in Leicester was the winner of the Grand Prix prize and commenting on the decision to award this prestigious accolade to Beaumont Leys, Tim Byles said: "From all of this year's BSF awards,



one project stood out for a number of reasons. Beaumont Leys opened six weeks ahead of schedule, thanks to the strong relationship developed over many months between the school leadership team, the local authority and the private sector partner, but the real difference - which I am delighted to have seen for myself - is in the attitude, self-esteem and motivation of the pupils after moving into their new school in April. Headteacher, Liz Logie is pictured above collecting her award.

Following on from the presentation of the awards, the evening then featured a charity auction in aid of The Transformation Trust, a new charitable venture launched by PfS earlier this year which funds projects that support extra-curricula activities in and around the BSF schools; ranging from the arts and sport through to mentoring and careers-focused schemes.

The lots on offer were: a private dinner for six and tour of the House of Lords with Baroness Margaret Sharp; a half day factory tour for four people giving a behind the scenes view of how a Formula One team operates, from



F1 in Schools and Red Bull; CEO access to the Editor's meeting at the *Financial Times*; and a private dinner with David Puttnam, the world-renowned film producer of award winning films such as *Bugsy Malone*, *The Killing Fields* and *Chariots of Fire*, for six guests. Bidding was fiercely competitive and the total raised for the charity on the night was £14,804.

The Winners

The winning projects from the *Excellence in BSF Awards 2009* are:

Best Change Programme

Winner: London Borough of Southwark

Highly Commended: Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Innovation in Student Engagement

School winner: City Academy, Hackney

Local authority winner: Somerset County Council

Highly Commended: Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Innovation in PE & Sport

Winner: London Borough of Lambeth

Education For All Award

Winner: Lancashire County Council for Pendle Vale College and Pendle High School

Highly Commended: London Borough of Lambeth

Adviser of the Year

Winner: Bryanston Square

Most Versatile Learning Environment:

Winner: Joseph Rowntree School, York

Most Inspirational Use of Outdoor Space

Highly Commended: Milton Keynes Academy, Milton Keynes - BDP

Most Effective ICT Partnering

Winner: Sheffield/Civica

Highly Commended: Leeds/RM

Community Hub Award

Winner: Catalyst Lend Lease, Burnley Campus, Lancashire

Buildings Beyond Schools Award

Winner: Inspiredpaces STaG LEP for Cleadon Park Primary Care Centre, South Tyneside and Gateshead

Innovation in Sustainability

Winner: Hope Academy, Newton Le Willows - St Helens

Design Adviser of the Year – the Jonathan Ibikunle award

Winner: Catherine Brownell, Southwark BSF

PfS Events 2009, cntd.

Best BSF Academy

Winner: Sunderland 360

Highly Commended: The Wellington Academy, Wiltshire

Best Design for a New School

Winner: Park Hall School, Solihull – Nicholas Hare Architects

Highly Commended: St Mary Magdalene Academy, Islington - Fielden Clegg Bradley Architects

Best Design for a Remodelled School

Winner: Elm Court Special School, Lambeth - JM Architects

Highly Commended: Westminster City School, Westminster - Anshen and Allen

BSF School of the Year

Winner: Beaumont Leys School, Leicester

Local Authority of the Year

Joint winners: Southwark Council and the London Borough of Lambeth

Local Education Partnership of the Year

Winner: inspiredspaces Nottingham Ltd

Highly Commended: Sheffield and Newcastle

Grand Prix

Winner: Beaumont Leys School, Leicester

Design Conference

Headteachers, architects, contractors, local government officials and academics were among the 200-plus delegates to attend PfS's second annual design conference on 24 November 2009 at the British Museum.

The programme was packed with invaluable sessions for those interested in hearing more about design, sustainability, flexibility and the importance of furniture and equipment (F&E) in delivering 21st century learning.

Chaired by Strategic Director of Design at PfS, Mairi Johnson, the event began with a welcome and introduction speech by Tim

Byles, in which he announced the scope of the latest procurement review, which seeks to bring further time and cost savings to the program and move the process even closer to the 52-week procurement goal. His speech also addressed a number of design issues, such as the importance of listening to students, teachers and parents in order to produce the right designs for each school, and the impact that design can have for learning.

Sir John Sorrell, in one of his last speeches as Chair of CBE, then looked at the future of school design and how we can move on from here and build on the successes already seen. You can read more on this on the CBE website:

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/articles/school-design-forward-not-back>



The highlight of the day was a keynote from award-winning architect and author Herman Hertzberger (pictured above) who shared his spatial philosophy vision and provided food for thought on the use of stairs and the spaces beneath them in school design.

The closing keynote of the day came from Rosan Bosch, the acclaimed contemporary artist, designer and architectural developer, who works with school communities in Denmark to help them get the most from their new buildings.

The feedback on all of these events has been extremely positive and we look forward to bringing you more opportunities to learn, share and network with the BSF, Academies and PCP communities in 2010.

Keep an eye on the PfS website events page (http://www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/media/event_list.jsp) and our dedicated events website (<http://pfsevents.com/index.htm>) for updates.

BSF Open Days

The award-winning Elm Court School in the London Borough of Lambeth hosted the first BSF Open Day at a Special Educational Needs school on Wednesday 2 December. The school,

which caters for up to 100 students with statements of Special Educational Need, moved into its new facilities on Elm Park in March 2009 as part of Lambeth's BSF programme. Elm Court School was recently awarded the Best Design for a Remodelled School accolade at the *Excellence in BSF Awards 2009*.

Following an introduction from Sal Wilson, Operations Director at PfS, delegates watched a short film produced by Lambeth to showcase the school for the *Excellence in BSF Awards 2009*. Barry Gilhooly, Assistant Director, Inclusion, Children and Young Peoples' Service at Lambeth then introduced their vision for SEN and how Elm Court fits into the provision for the borough.

Matt Tabram from JM Architects took delegates through the challenge of remodelling an Edwardian building on a constrained site into one that was fit for 21st century learners. He went on to show how they successfully remodelled the main building to make the most of natural light and passive ventilation and designed the new build sports hall and practical teaching block. Brendon Kavanagh presented for RM on their approach to ICT for Lambeth's schools and Marcel Hendricks from Apollo Education gave the construction partner's point of view.

Delegates were then taken on a tour of the school, giving them the opportunity to see the school in action and ask students and staff how they felt about their new facilities. The morning concluded with a presentation from headteacher Bill Hutcheson who stressed the importance of a good relationship between the school and local authority.

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council were highly commended in the *Excellence BSF Awards 2009* in the Best Change Programme category for their innovative vision for education in their region. You can read more about the BSF Open Day held at one of their schools in the *Future Schooling in Knowsley* article on page 15.

BSF Open Days are a great opportunity for local authorities and private sector partners to hear from project teams direct. Keep your eyes peeled for our next BSF Open Day in the New Year.

Future Learning Spaces at BETT



To get the latest ICT news, case studies and innovations across the primary and secondary schools capital programmes make sure you include a visit to the Future Learning Spaces (FLS) area on your schedule for BETT.

PfS will once again be supporting FLS and, as well as the PfS stand, the area will include interactive learning spaces, the local authority and network managers' lounges and a seminar programme featuring informative and exciting sessions from many of the foremost education ICT providers and the recent winner of the Most Effective ICT Partnering category at the *Excellence in BSF Awards 2009*.

PfS is also supporting the wider BETT show with presentations in the main seminar theatre. Chief Executive, Tim Byles, will be presenting his *Building Learning for the Future* keynote in the Apex Theatre on 15 January at 12.30.

This session will look at the new role for PfS beyond BSF and how bringing the delivery of a range of schools capital programmes together under one roof, through our specialist teams of technical experts, PfS is able to have 'one conversation' with local government and the private sector about education investment.

Also from PfS, Ged McClinton is presenting a session entitled *Building Special Schools for the Future; a case study* on 13 January at midday in the SEN Theatre and Steve Moss will be taking the stage at midday on 14 January in the Gallery 1 – Policy Theatre to present the *'Power Up': How ICT is transforming BSF schools* session.

The full schedule for the main BETT-seminar programme and details of the FLS area can be found at: <http://www.bettshow.com/>

The FLS Seminar programme

There are sessions running throughout the four days of the show in the FLS Seminar Theatre, here are some of the highlights:

Excellence in BSF Awards Winners 2009: The Civica Learning Suite. *Darren Morgan, Civica*

Civica is debuting the next generation of its learning platform at BETT, and this session will describe the trends within BSF and changes to the output specification which are bringing about this change.

Change Management. *Michael Buchanan, PfS*

This presentation will explore some of the key components of a robust change management strategy for BSF along with some of the opportunities and challenges. Referencing PfS guidance for submissions of Readiness to Deliver, Strategy for Change and Outline Business Case, expectations for delivery will be set out. Having in place a systematic plan for the leadership and management of change is a critical success factor in implementing a BSF education strategy.

Kingwood City Learning Centre iSpace. *Mishka Klotz, OM Interactive*

The iSpace (pictured above right) is an agile and multifunctional learning space accessible to learners of all ages, abilities and needs. Created through a close collaboration between Kingwood CLC and OM Interactive and incorporating interactive light beams and floor and wall projection systems, the room offers enormous potential for exploration, collaboration, experimentation and the development of the creative curriculum. This session will have a live link up to students using the space and is a must see for all visitors to BETT.

Smart data, smart learning. *Chris Poole, lookred solutions*

We live in a world where it is possible to wrap information, tools and resources around individual needs and characteristics. This session discusses how education is lagging behind other sectors in exploiting the full potential of technology and how the 'school experience' is being challenged by the preferences and experiences young people have in the rest of their lives.

Design your school. *Rachel Desouza, Barnfield West Academy and Lee Widra, Flexitech*

Find out more about *Design Your School* - intuitive and exciting 3D web-based software that enables real time integration, collaboration and design of ICT and furniture into schools. The software has been developed to provide totally flexible design solutions allowing full integration of ICT and furniture layouts in a truly visual and engaging way.

How Green IT can support innovation in BSF and save you money. *Alistair McGowan, NCC*

The session looks at the ICT technologies and services that can reduce the environmental impact of new BSF ICT solutions, such as cloud computing and low power consumption



devices, while also supporting innovation and creativity and reducing a school's overall running costs.

Also on the schedule in the FLS seminar are:

Media and learning – embracing the YouTube generation. *Hamish Kennedy, Sony*

Virtual school. *Andy Fisher and Mark Mullis, Middlesbrough City Learning Centre*

It's not all about the toys. *Neil Hayes, Place Group*

'Future Learning'. What should it mean? How far have we come? *Ramesys*

The big debate. *Sir Mike Tomlinson and Sir Tim Brighouse, 21st Century Alliance*

ICT in BSF schools

Remote access for home users

Smith's Wood Sports College in Solihull has broadened its ICT delivery by enabling students to use thin client devices in their homes. These devices can connect to the school network to access applications and files and can also get school-filtered internet access. This project has allowed some users previously without exposure to computers in the home to gain access to the internet and a wider world of learning.

Managed Learning Environment collaboration

Civica has worked collaboratively with sample schools in Sheffield and in partnership with the City Council to deliver a bespoke LearnSheffield MLE which is embedded into the teaching and learning of the schools. In addition, Civica delivers a fully Managed Service that entrenches ICT into all aspects of practice and delivery in the schools, enriching pupils' experiences and inspiring teaching and learning.

New from Pfs

Several new guidance documents and case studies have been published on the Pfs website in the past few months, along with a new section dedicated to Arts and Culture in the BSF programme and a section for each of the schools capital programmes that transferred to Pfs from the DCSF on 1 October 2009.

Guidance

- Advice note to BSF procuring authorities on bid-rigging
- Consultation Engagement Strategy
- Guidance and Examples for Development of Draft Authority Requirements for ICT
- Guidance on Pre-Procurement Market Engagement

Download these guidance documents from:
http://www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/library/bsf_guidance.jsp

Case Studies

- Designing for special educational needs students
- Building a 'virtual school': using Second Life
- Building an Innovation Zone with national partners through BSF: Knowsley's experience
- Successful ICT Managed Service delivery in Lewisham: Forest Hill School
- An adult-free student induction to a BSF new build school
- Student participation in technology and design decisions: from primary to secondary

All of these case studies and more can be downloaded from:
<http://www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/library/casestudies.jsp>

Arts and Culture website

This new section on the website focuses on arts, culture and cultural learning in the BSF programme and provides guidance, information and resources that will help local authorities, schools and private sector partners to:

- articulate the value of arts and culture in

delivering education, social and community outcomes and create a transformational vision for your local authority or school;

- strive for good quality, innovative designs of school arts facilities;
- promote joined up and strategic working within and across local authorities;
- encourage community access to school facilities, growing and sustaining community activity;
- carry out effective engagement of and consultation with young people, teachers, parents and the local community during the BSF process; and
- represent the cultural sector, establishing partnerships and making the most of the opportunity that the BSF programme presents.

Find out more at:
http://www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/library/Art_and_Culture.jsp

Schools Capital Programmes

The website has been restructured to include information on the schools capital programmes that Pfs is now responsible for:

- The navigation has changed and all of the capital investment programmes (Academies, BSF, Devolved Capital, Primaries and Targeted Capital) now have individual tabs linking to sub-sites providing relevant information and resources. All of these sections can also be accessed from new icons within the main body of the home page content.
- The Library can now be accessed through the individual programme sections under the Resources tabs. The Library will have additional resources for the new programmes added in the coming months.
- The Help section is now accessible through a link at the top right of each page in the site.
- The 'Contact Us' page now includes an enquiry form that asks visitors to specify which programme they are enquiring about. These enquiries will be delivered to a central email and then forwarded on to the relevant teams to respond.

There will be ongoing development and improvements to the website and more information will be provided as the changes take place.

Events Calendar

January 2010

Wednesday 13 - Saturday 16
BETT 2010, Olympia, London

February 2010

Wednesday 24 - Thursday 25
BSEC, ExCeL, London



Project Support Programme

From 1 January 2010 Pfs will be launching the Project Support Programme, which will replace the Expert Client Programme previously delivered by Local Partnerships (formerly 4ps) and includes local support and regional workshops.

Three workshops will take place twice a term in each region (South, Central and West, and North) and will be open to all local authorities in the BSF programme. There will be specialist talks and workshops at each event relevant to your local authority's progress. Further information will be available soon on our website:
http://www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/media/event_list.jsp.

We look forward to welcoming you to these events in the New Year.

School cycle scheme helps Healthy School status

When staff at Potton Lower School in Bedfordshire noticed that traffic congestion around the school was increasing at the start and end of the school day, they decided to introduce a cycle scheme alongside their new healthy eating plan to encourage more pupils to arrive at school by bike.

When carrying out surveys to inform the development of their School Travel Plan, the feedback from pupils and parents revealed that they wanted to cycle to school but the lack of suitable, secure storage was deterring them.

Knowing that storage was the major factor on which the cycle scheme's success rested, the school set about finding the best option for their needs. They discovered that traditional bike sheds were an expensive option, didn't hold many bikes and had no provision for scooters, which many pupils had said they wanted to come to school on.

The school discovered a new storage system called Minipods, which could store bikes and scooters together and came in a smaller version for primary schools that took up 40 per cent less space than traditional bike storage options. With security options that enabled both bikes and scooters to be locked in place and a range of bright, child-friendly colours that would make bike storage fun, the school decided to install a Minipod to kick-start their cycle scheme.

As soon as it was installed, the number of children cycling to school increased despite it being in the middle of winter and by the end of the next summer, another Minipod had to be installed to cater for all the cyclists. To encourage and reward pupils for cycling the school also took part in the Star Challenge, which gives children who walk, cycle or arrive at school in a car share scheme a certain number of times during a term a free swimming session at the local pool. Most pupils received one free swim and a large number cycled to school enough times to receive two.

The school's annual travel survey showed that cycle usage for travel to and from school had grown from just one per cent of pupils to 14 per cent in one year. Due to the success of the cycle scheme, the school has also introduced Bikeability courses for Year 3 and Year 4 pupils to ensure they are road safe as they move on to unaccompanied cycling.



At the same time as the Travel Plan, the school's healthy eating regime has seen the introduction of school meals that provide a balanced diet and encourage children to make healthier food choices. Only fresh fruit and vegetables are allowed as snacks during the day and the children are encouraged to drink plenty of water.

Potton Lower School also has an excellent PE and Sport programme in place, with a number of outside school clubs also available, and has recently been rewarded an Active Mark for exceptional delivery of their PE and Sports strategy.

Find out more about Minipods bike storage, which is now in place in more than 200 schools, at: <http://www.minipods.co.uk>

The benefits of getting to school by bike

If more pupils cycled to school everyone would benefit: the children themselves, the wider school community and the population as a whole.

- Nationally, 50 per cent of children get less than the recommended one hour a day of moderate physical activity. **Nearly a quarter of primary school children are overweight** and numbers are rising.
- Cycling to school is an enjoyable, affordable way for children to get much-needed physical exercise. By supporting cycling, schools would be taking an active role in promoting healthy lifestyles. **Patterns of adult activity are established in childhood, so the improvement in pupils' health could be life-long.**
- Teachers in schools across the UK have reported that **pupils who walk or cycle to school are more alert and concentrate better than those who travel by car.** A recent study showed a positive link between physical activity and performance in school tests.
- The physical effort of **cycling to school has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety and improve children's self-confidence and independence.**
- A higher level of cycling to school will reduce road congestion around the school entrance, a big problem for most schools with limited drop-off space. Traffic congestion is potentially dangerous as well as annoying and stressful: cars jostling for space set up a vicious circle as the roads become less safe and even more parents decide to drive their children to school. Pro-cycling policies can reverse this trend, reducing road congestion and making things much safer for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Higher levels of cycling also cut local traffic emissions, benefitting the growing number of children who suffer from asthma. People sometimes worry that children who cycle will be exposed to traffic fumes, but research shows that **children inside cars are exposed to three times as much pollution as those outside.**



Delivery in Action: Southampton Student Design Showcase

When it comes to designing new schools who better to ask for inspiration than the students who attend them?

That's exactly what Southampton City Council did as part of its BSF programme. Students from Southampton's secondary schools consulted their peers, teachers and parents on what they want their schools to be like in the future as part of the council's BSF student engagement programme.

Their activities, which included creative workshops as part of the Sorrell Foundation's *joinedupdesignforschools* programme, culminated in a glittering event where they took to the silver screen at a local independent cinema to showcase their ideas.

The evening kicked off with a *Big Brother*-style BSF diary room which had toured Southampton's schools and spoke to over 60 young people to ask them what they did and didn't like about their current school learning environments. Overall students said they liked the outside spaces at their schools while the toilets, which were frequently referred to as the 'room of doom', and the long dark corridors were a regular complaint.

Speaking at the event, Karl Limbert, Director for BSF and Academies at Southampton City Council said: "Our schools are rethinking the way they teach in order to redesign their

learning spaces for the needs of 21st century learners and our work with the Sorrell Foundation and our students has been fundamental to this. The young people have opened our eyes to the changes that will make their schools more exciting, inspiring and comfortable places to be in the future."

Each of the six schools introduced a short film showing their work with the Sorrell Foundation and how they would apply the results from it to their current learning environments. All the student teams were then presented with certificates and copies of their design briefs by Southampton's Mayor Elizabeth Mizon.

Chamberlayne College of the Arts used the theme from the Great Escape to great effect to highlight features of their current school building in which some students feel trapped and intimidated. St George Catholic College injected humour into their film by demonstrating why their school needs larger learning spaces, social spaces and toilets, each time returning to how their work with the Sorrell Foundation enabled them to come up with possible solutions.

Claire Hall, Stakeholder and Communications Manager for Southampton's BSF programme, said: "The students produced some wonderfully focused and entertaining films to demonstrate their top three issues. The evening really helped to raise the profile of BSF and has taken us one step closer to realising the full potential of our schools."

The evening finished with a *BSF Today* production (to the theme of

BBC South Today news), where students from the Sholing Technology College and St George Catholic College interviewed Southampton Councillor Paul Holmes and BSF Project Director Karl Limbert about their school days and the timescale of the project.

Following the event the design concepts for the first phase of Southampton's BSF project - Chamberlayne, Sholing, St George and Upper Shirley - went on display at the Civic Centre, showing aerial views of the school sites and possible ways for the new buildings and facilities to be arranged. Claire Hall said: "We are delighted with the results of our student engagement programme. Not only did the young people have a great time developing their design ideas, they also felt valued and a part of the changes being planned at their schools. Our celebration event was the icing on the cake."

For more information on Southampton's BSF project see: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/learning/bsf>





Delivery in Action: Future Schooling Knowsley

Students dressed as statues take part in the opening ceremony of the Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning in Knowsley. Principal Madeleine Cotson and Councillor Morgan, Knowsley's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development, enjoy the show.

With the opening of Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning (HASC), which replaces Knowsley Hey School and Bowring Community Sports College and is the fifth of seven Centres for Learning to open in Knowsley, we look at Knowsley's BSF journey so far, focusing on the newest Centre for Learning.

The 'Future Schooling in Knowsley' strategy was established in 2003 with the clear intent of transforming the education experience for young people in the area and improving economic and social outcomes. Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC) secured £250 million in government funding to become one of the first boroughs in the country to introduce seven ground-breaking Centres for Learning to replace all of its 11 secondary schools in the area.

The Christ the King Catholic Centre for Learning opened at the start of 2009, Halewood Centre for Learning in summer 2009 and the Kirkby Sports, Knowsley Park and Huyton Arts and Sports Centres for Learning all opened at the start of the 2009/10 academic year. Knowsley's remaining centres, All Saints and St Edmunds Arrowsmith Centres for Learning, will both open in the New Year.

The opening ceremony of HASC was held at the centre in October 2009, and saw Councillor Ron Round, the Leader of Knowsley MBC, unveil a commemorative plaque while pupils at the school dressed as

statues and performed to mark the occasion, in reflection of the centre's specialism in the Arts.

Damian Allen, Executive Director of Knowsley's Directorate of Children and Family Services, said: "It has been a momentous year for Knowsley and we should all be proud of our efforts and never lose sight of the scale of change we have delivered. We have sought to deliver genuine transformation and innovation – we promised and we have delivered.

HASC is the hub around which other community and leisure facilities are being developed. This year work will start on the co-location of a £25m replacement Huyton Sport and Leisure Centre and a £5m 'Our Place' Youth Facility, placing this Centre for Learning truly at the heart of the community.

Madeleine Cotson, Principal of HASC, said: "This has been a huge undertaking with an unprecedented amount of change, which always brings challenge and uncertainty. I have been incredibly heartened and inspired by the way in which staff and students have come together to form a strong community, in which all of us are supported to achieve our goals and to become the leaders of the future."

HASC aims to develop all students' individual talents and interests to their full potential. The world class facilities and resources, together with high quality staff and strong community links, create a rich, inspiring and vibrant environment within which the curriculum provides a wealth of opportunities and

The features of the Huyton Arts and Sports Centre for Learning include:

- the homework club, extra classes are offered after school for pupils to catch up or to extend their academic achievement;
- the centre is open until 9pm and caters for the whole community;
- traditional classrooms and timetables have been replaced by flexible learning packages, classroom walls can be removed, extended or shortened depending on the project or class size;
- open space and natural lighting is key to its design, an example of this is the eye-catching atrium (pictured on page 16);
- the new multiple dining facilities provide a comfortable environment where every child has a choice of healthy food;
- wireless and internet sockets are scattered on floors and walls to encourage independence among pupils armed with the latest IT equipment;
- there is a 100-seater lecture theatre at the top of the atrium where seating can be folded up to become a normal teaching space; and
- the building is energy efficient with underground water used to partially heat and cool the building.

Future Schooling Knowsley, cntd.

experiences for learning and enrichment.

HASC's motto is 'Learners today, Leaders tomorrow', which reflects Knowsley's aim to prepare pupils well for 21st century life. HASC wants its pupils to not only be well qualified, but to know how to continue to learn, how to solve problems and how to work with others, so that they are independent, lifelong learners who can cope with the demands of adult life and contribute positively to their community, and in the world of work, in a rapidly changing society.

Knowsley MBC plays an active role in sharing best practice and lessons learned and on 20 October 2009 hosted a BSF Open Day at HASC for headteachers and local authority BSF teams. Speakers on the day included Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Pfs; Damian Allen, Knowsley MBC; Tony Langan, Aedas; David

Brooks, RM; Chris Whitehead, Balfour Beatty and Madeleine Cotson, Principal, HASC.

The Open Day programme covered the successes and challenges of Knowsley's BSF project overall, including a background on the unique vision of the programme, putting the Knowsley BSF vision into practice and the challenges – learning, building and design.

Councillor Larry Nolan, who served as Knowsley's Cabinet Member for Children's Services for 13 years, died in 2006, aged 76. For many years Larry provided visionary leadership of education in Knowsley, saying that Knowsley's people should, by right, attend 'palaces for learning'. His vision has now come true, especially with HASC which was on his patch.

For more information on the Knowsley projects, visit the website: <http://www.knowsley.gov.uk>



The Transformation Trust

Inspiring our children

In May this year the London Eye hosted the launch of the Transformation Trust, a new education charity set up by Pfs whose aim is to give young people access to the opportunities and experiences that will help transform their futures and enable them to fulfil their potential. Set against the background of BSF, the Transformation Trust has unparalleled access to inspire and transform school children's lives across the country. In its first term of operation, the Trust is already funding activities in over 50 schools in England.

December sees the Trust invite bids from third sector organisations to become part of the Trust's offering to new BSF schools from September 2010. Projects applying for funding will be asked to demonstrate how their work will support the Trust's vision to excite and inspire young minds by offering extra-curricular activities that help them to fulfil their potential.

For companies and individuals, supporting the Transformation Trust positions them as leaders within their industries, maximising the impact of their corporate social responsibility, making a real and lasting difference to young people and their futures.

For further information please visit www.transformationtrust.org.uk or email Amy Leonard (Interim CEO) on amy.leonard@transformationtrust.org.uk

The Transformation Trust founding members are:



Update: Delivery Partners

CABE

CDA training

CABE's first training workshop with client design advisors (CDAs) working on BSF projects took place in Bristol on 9 December 2009.

CDAs are an essential part of the process of procuring BSF schools. They help local authorities get the high-quality buildings and environments that will deliver their vision for their schools and communities. They do this through advising on the brief, what questions to ask when, and whether a scheme successfully interprets the brief.

CDAs also provide independent advice on the choice of design and construction partners and, once construction is under way, can continue to help ensure that quality is maintained.

CABE's workshops aim to reinforce the skills of CDAs and strengthen the network of experienced and expert architects helping BSF local authorities. CDAs need to work closely with a range of people, not only in the local authority but also in the schools themselves, as well as with PfS and other government officials.

The content and structure of the workshops has been developed together with PfS, the RIBA and CABE enablers, as well as a local authority and contractor already involved in BSF.

Two workshops have been devised: one on design quality and the other on facilitation skills:

- **Design quality:** this will include a case study where a client, contractor, headteacher, architect and PfS design manager from a current BSF local authority share their perspectives of the process and the points at which the CDA's contribution has been most useful. CABE will also explain how it assesses design quality, including the Minimum Design standard
- **Facilitation skills:** this will equip CDAs with the tools needed to support the communications side of their role. It will explore issues such as gathering and analysing information, building consensus, understanding the dynamics of a particular

situation and knowing when, for example, to challenge, lead or listen.

In both workshops, CDAs will be able to share their experiences with colleagues.

Each workshop will be delivered twice in the South West/Midlands (Bristol and Birmingham), the North (Liverpool and Leeds), and London. Further information can be obtained from Jo Wilson at CABE: jwilson@cabe.org.uk or 020 7070 6738.

In addition to CDA training, CABE is also providing workshops for local authorities preparing their 'Readiness to Deliver' documents (see Autumn 2009 edition of *Insite*).

National College

Lonely at the top? Not any more

How do you become confident and fluent with innovation? How do you pull together creative and dynamic teams to create centres of learning capable of turning around the fortunes of the communities they serve?

Comprehensive and finely tuned arrays of world-class expert advice are on offer at the two-day conference-style events that support the National College's BSF Leadership Programme.

School leaders and their counterparts in local government face unprecedented expectations that they should be innovative and dynamic. It's therefore crucial that the very best resources are made available for hard-pressed heads tasked with remodelling or rebuilding their schools.

The National College events brings together world renowned experts to work with school leaders and their local authority counterparts. Leaders on transformative learning, like Professor Stephen Heppell, or learning space design, like Australia's Dr Kenn Fisher and Denmark's Rosan Bosch, or engaging student voice for design, like Sir John Sorrell of the Sorrell Foundation.

These figureheads are meshed into unforgettable events by the workshops and presentations from inspiring leaders and professionals who are already in, or have been through, the process. They are passionate about sharing the successes and the challenges that they face on their quests to create the very best experiences and life chances for 21st century learners.

"If we demand the very best from school leaders and their collaborators in BSF, then that is exactly what we have to provide them with at our events," says Hannah Jones, the

National College special projects director who is responsible for the BSF Leadership Programme. "My colleagues understand the inspiration and support our school leaders need, and we have become expert in providing it at our events."

Further information can be found at: www.nationalcollege.org.uk/bsf or by contacting: bsfteam@nationalcollege.org.uk



The *Insite* Interview

Nick Gaunt is Network Manager at Archbishop Grimshaw School in Solihull. He is in an almost unique position in that he attended Archbishop Grimshaw as a student, and has worked there both before and after the BSF project so has witnessed the transformation first hand.

How did your areas of expertise such as music technology help shape the new Archbishop Grimshaw?

The design of the theatre and the connectivity between the performance areas have benefitted from my 35 plus years' experience. These were totally inadequate on the original design; it took six months of discussion with the architects to reach the ideal solution. We have tried to make the spaces as future proof as possible, installing multiple audio, video and network cabling between the two control rooms and performance spaces.

As my background is as an electronics/sound engineer I am able to read and understand schematic drawings. This was very useful when it came to the RDD (reviewable design data) stage. This is the point at which we were able to comment on planned electrical installation, amongst other things. I found a number of areas where, although the installation would have conformed to electrical regulations, in reality they would not work in a school environment. These would have been very costly to put right retrospectively.

What are your initial impressions of the new school and do they meet your expectations?

The new school has been received very well by staff and students alike. With the wide open corridors, social spaces and natural light it is easy to move around. There is a problem with ventilation and we are working with the construction company to try and remedy this. Although, in hindsight, there are a few things we either missed or got wrong, the new school far surpasses my expectations.

How do you think the new school building has changed how pupils learn?

I think the accessibility to ICT has got to be the biggest thing. We designed in six open access ICT areas in corridors. These are available to the pupils before and after school as well as during the day. We have students arriving at 7:45am and being asked to leave at 5:30pm. I am not suggesting that they are



spending all of this time doing school work, but they are extending their school day for themselves. Every classroom also has an interactive whiteboard and a teacher PC allowing access to a wider range of resources.

Has the school changed your attitudes to work? Do you do anything differently?

In the old buildings I was hidden away in a room with no natural light, it was so bad the pupils called it 'the cave'. In the new school I am right at the heart of the school and have more interaction with the pupils. I have always prided myself on having a strong work ethic, this has not changed.

How is the experience for today's pupils different to that of your own?

My school was also brand new and was well supplied with what was then state-of-the-art equipment; we even had a couple of black and white open reel video recorders. Worksheets were handwritten and printed off on a Banda or Gestetner hand operated copier.

Of course ICT was unheard of and the nearest we got to an interactive whiteboard was an overhead projector with acetate overlays. Like our students, I was very fortunate to attend a new school; however I did not have to cope with the pressures of targets and SATs!

What are your top tips for members of school staff hoping to transform a school?

Have a detailed 'outcome' document, make sure that you know and understand what the school wants. If you don't understand something that is presented to you, ask! If you still don't understand ask again. If there is something you don't agree with don't let it go and don't be fobbed off.

If you are given an answer which although seems plausible is not what you were looking for, research it and bring it back to the table.

Watch out for room classification, this can have serious implications if they are incorrect. There are different sets of data for different uses. Above all be a strong client. Be sure of what you want and make sure the constructor understands it.

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

Two things, the first is my involvement in the design development of Archbishop Grimshaw School and helping to bring this in on time and on budget. The second is my involvement in the National Rock and Pop festival. This takes place each July and is open to any musician, aged between 10 and 19, in the UK. I am Technical Co-ordinator for the event, which provides a platform for these musicians to show families and peers their musical skills.

Our mission is to encourage youngsters playing musical instruments to continue playing and to inspire those watching to pick an instrument up. We provide a professional stage, lighting, sound and video. This year our venue was the National Indoor Arena (NIA) in Birmingham. We had more than 650 young musicians on stage over three nights.

And finally, the question we ask all Insite interviewees: who, alive, dead or fictional, would you like to have dinner with?

Who's paying? This changes on a regular basis, at this moment in time it would probably be Paul McCartney. Maybe with his help and influence we could safeguard the National Rock and Pop Festival.