



BULLETIN

Latest news on the Priority School Building Programme
from King James I Academy

Issue 2: February 2013

Developer announcement

On 1st February 2013 a press release was issued by the Education Funding Agency (DfE) which announced that Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd had successfully won the contract to design and build King James I Academy as part of the Priority Schools Building Programme. This announcement follows a bidding process which saw twelve bidders reduced to two who were then asked to formally present their proposals for the nine schools which are part of our batch.

PSBP Regional Meeting

Following the first meeting in York, King James I Academy offered to host the next regional meeting for the PSBP (North East Schools Design and Build) which took place on Wednesday 6th February 2013.

The meeting was originally planned to take place on 24th January; unfortunately adverse weather conditions led to the postponement of the original meeting.

For once, the adverse weather worked in our favour. The meeting on 6th February was attended by representatives of Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd, as successful bidders, as well as by representatives of Space Group (designers of our new school) and the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

Within the meeting we were provided with an outline of the successful projects which have been delivered by the companies, as well as a range of other details.

Practical information

Thanks to the work of many members of staff we have already provided the EFA with a great deal of information:

- **Educational Vision** – Key details about the school and its ethos, including our ambitions for the new school.



An example of a baseline design taken from the DfE website.

- **Adjacency Diagram** – We provided the EFA with a plan of the potential school which shows the juxtaposition of different departments, and was based upon their “control option”.

- **Curriculum Analysis** – An outline of the curriculum we intend to deliver within our new school.

- **Draft Schedule of Accommodation** – This provides an overview of the way in which we would like the space provided to be used, and is considered alongside the Curriculum Analysis.

- **Legacy ICT Audit** – An audit of all of the ICT equipment within the school which will be transferred to our new school.

- **Loose Furniture and Equipment Audit** – All staff have completed an audit which identifies the various pieces of furniture which will have to be planned for within the new school.

- **Fixed Furniture and Equipment Audit** – An audit of all of the equipment which is currently fixed and could be transferred. This includes heavier items of equipment (ovens, lathes etc.).

We will now be required to negotiate key elements of the documents to help to finalise the “Feasibility” stage of the development.

Timescales

Within the meeting it became clear that, following the commencement of works on the “sample school” (Ian Ramsey, Stockton on Tees), we will be the next school to be built.

It was suggested that the construction stage will have started by September 2013 on all school sites, and therefore we would assume that works will start on our site at some point late in the Summer Term. It was further highlighted that all nine schools will have been completed (including landscaping) by March 2015.

It is clear, from the discussions which took place, that the contractors are being expected to work to very tight deadlines and that no “slippage” is expected.

Next steps

Beech Williamson, who will be our Design Advisor, will attend a further meeting at King James I Academy on Monday 11th February to further discuss our plans. His visit will be followed quickly by a series of six to eight “Design Engagement” Meetings which will include key stakeholders and Carol Cuthbertson who will be responsible for Design Management.

We anticipate that the formal consultation process will also begin fairly quickly and will include an event hosted at the school for all site users.

This is an exciting stage in developments and one which will bring opportunities for all users to help to shape the final design of the school.



Additional Site Developments: 3G Pitch

We continue with our plans to develop a 3G Artificial Turf Pitch, and we have just commissioned MDesign to submit a formal planning application to the Local Authority. This follows a successful pre-planning application. Discussions are on-going with a variety of users and public bodies to help to turn our ambition into a reality. More news will be provided in due course.

Further information

www.kingjames1academy.com
www.education.gov.uk

