

Woodlands School remodelled for the 21st century

The £1.2 million transformation of Woodlands Special School in Aspley has been completed today.

The £1.2 million refurbishment project was funded through the former Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

The entrance area for pupils, staff and visitors has been greatly improved by creating a new open and welcoming entrance. The internal environment has undergone a complete make-over, a new food technology area has been created and the old school hall has been remodelled to create separate spaces for a new dining hall, common room and a performance area. In addition, the classrooms within the internal courtyard area have been demolished and the area has been landscaped to provide a tranquil space for pupils and staff to enjoy. There is also a library set in the centre of the courtyard which emphasises how literacy is central to everything the pupils are taught within school. All paths of learning lead to and from the ability to read and write.

The school caters for 59 pupils aged 4 to 16 with a wide range of complex learning difficulties. It is part of the Westbury / Woodlands Federation of schools led by Mr John Dyson.

Carol Barker, Head of School at Woodlands, said: "We are delighted with the transformation of our school in such a short space of time. The new school environment has enhanced learning opportunities for all our pupils, particularly now that the library and literacy is at the core. The changes have improved the overall movement of pupils within the school and created some fantastic teaching and learning environments and spaces where the whole school can gather - although the highlight is our American Dinner with a Sci Fi theme. The young people really adore it in there."

Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services said: "I am delighted to see the completion of the works at Woodlands School which have provided greatly improved environments for the children to learn in, giving them the opportunity to thrive and succeed."

The construction work, which began in February, has been carried out by Nottingham's award-winning Local Education Partnership (LEP) which is a public private partnership between the Council and inspiredspaces.

ends

Notes to editors

Nottingham's award-winning Local Education Partnership (LEP)

Nottingham's LEP is a public private partnership between Nottingham City Council, Building Schools for the Future Investments and a private sector partner. In Nottingham, the private sector partner is *inspiredspaces* which brings Carillion as construction and facilities management services provider, together with Capita who provide ICT expertise.

To find out more, visit www.nottinghamlep.co.uk

For further information please contact Nadine Hilliard, Marketing and Communications Officer on 0115 876 3404.