

Nottingham's secondary school building programme builds momentum as first new buildings open

Big Wood School, Business and Enterprise College, in Warren Hill, is being completely rebuilt as part of Nottingham City Council's multi-million pound Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

Construction work started on the school in the summer of 2008 with the first phase reaching completion this summer. The new buildings will be officially opened by Vernon Coaker, Labour MP for Gedling and Minister of State for Schools and Learners, on Friday, 25 September at 11.30am.

Pupils from the school will join Vernon Coaker, former Deputy Headteacher at Big Wood School, to plant a tree in the new courtyard which is the centre piece of the new school.

Councillor David Mellen, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, said: "The completion of the first phase of work to rebuild Big Wood School marks an important milestone in our ambitious programme to transform learning in Nottingham. Nottingham's Building Schools for the Future programme is the key to raising aspirations and standards and the new learning environments at Big Wood will provide pupils and staff with outstanding facilities. I look forward to seeing this exciting project take shape over the coming months."

Bernadette Groves, Headteacher at Big Wood School, said: "This is an exciting time in the life of Big Wood School. Having the new school built next to the current facilities has kept disruption to education to a minimum. We are fully utilising the new state of the art facilities to enhance the education and opportunities for our pupils."

Big Wood School is being rebuilt in two phases. The first phase involved rebuilding the 'English and expressive arts', 'science and world studies' and 'maths, IT and design' blocks which pupils and staff are now using. Each of the teaching blocks opens out onto a curriculum garden, outdoor learning spaces with unique features. For example, the 'English/expressive arts' garden has an amphitheatre, the 'maths/IT/design' garden features a giant chess board and the 'science/world studies' garden features an area of natural habitat. In the centre of each block is a 'heart space' which can be used for learning or as social space for pupils.

Work is now underway on the completion of the construction programme which involves building a new entrance and sports hall. This final phase is due to be completed in June 2010.

