

Hope



News update from Hope Academy
September 2011

A new beginning...

Principal John Gannon, welcomes staff and pupils to the new Hope Academy.

When Hope Academy opened its doors on 8th September it signalled a new beginning. Not just for the people who will work and learn here, but for the wider community who will benefit from the investment we are making in our young people, and from the facilities that will be made available to all.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion our thanks must go to a great number of people, whose vision, hard work and collaboration have made this extraordinary school possible. Firstly, to our sponsors, The Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool, The Church of England Diocese of Liverpool, and Liverpool Hope University, whose commitment to creating a truly exceptional learning facility will continue to inspire and inform our future. I also wish to extend our gratitude to the team from Willmott Dixon, led by Alistair Brymer, who as contractors have delivered this wonderful building and have been a pleasure to work with.

As excitement grows at the opportunity of learning, working and



growing within such a special environment, it is also important that we take time to reflect on the achievements and accomplishments which both of our feeder schools have delivered over their history. I am sure that pupils and teachers both past and present will share fond memories of their time at both St Aelreds Catholic Technology College and Newton Community High, and can be rightly proud to have been part of their success.

It is also exciting to note that the development of the Hope Academy site is far from complete. However, with the removal of the former Newton High buildings - making way for further sports facilities - being the next milestone to look forward to: I

ask for patience and forbearance while this final stage of work continues. I assure you all that we and the contractors will be working hard to minimise disruption.

May I close by offering a warm welcome to everyone to Hope Academy, and to thank you for choosing to join us, whether as a pupil, teacher or support worker, in the exciting journey ahead. My hope is that we will all not only excel during our time here, but enjoy ourselves along the way.

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Looking to the future...

We have developed a forward-looking curriculum that is innovative, personalised and global in scope. It is designed to prepare our young people for the world in which they will live.

Pastoral staff have been working hard to organise pupils into their Family Form Groups. The Academy has approximately 1350 learners (plus 300 in the Sixth Form) who are organised into five schools. The names of the schools are:

- Climate
- Energy
- Environment
- One World
- Resources

Each school is divided into two Houses which are managed by a Head of House. The Head of House is the first point of contact for parents who wish to discuss any aspect of their son/daughter's experience at the Academy. Pupils have also been allocated to mixed-age Family Form Groups which are designed to create a sense of inter-dependency and support. This 'schools within schools' approach is designated to foster a sense of community and belonging and will enable us to provide outstanding care, guidance and support for our learners.

Throughout their time at Hope Academy pupils will follow a broad range of subjects based on the national curriculum, including Religious Education. A skills-based programme has also been developed to allow pupils to develop key competencies – such as learning to learn, problem solving and strategies of thinking. Pupils will also have a range of options through our enrichment programme, where an extra 50-minute and two hour period will be set aside for chosen activities.

At Hope Academy we believe in stage, rather than age – and base education on a pupil's ability rather than their year of learning. This means pupils will be able to progress to Level 2/GCSE study in Year 9 if appropriate. Fundamentally, we offer a wide, flexible range of subjects and pathways for pupils, to ensure that the needs and aspirations of all learners are met.

Sixth Form Provision

Hope Academy Sixth Form offers brand new provision for our Key Stage Five students.

The Sixth Form Centre provides an environment in which students can access the latest technology and study facilities. There are also spaces for discussion, reflection and socialising.

The curriculum has been designed to be inclusive and motivational and students are able to follow Foundation, Advanced or Honours level programmes of study. Students entering Hope Academy Sixth Form with five or more A*-C or equivalent may study traditional Advanced level subjects such as Physics, French or Geography. Some may decide to follow a more vocational route comprising Level 3 BTEC courses such as Travel and Tourism or Health and Social Care. Students may combine both depending on aspiration and ability.

All students will study an accredited Ethics course and AS level General Studies in Year 12 providing Spiritual development and breadth to their curriculum. Students entering the



Sixth Form with less than five A*-C will enter the Foundation Programme where they will choose two level 2 vocational courses and opportunities will be provided to resit Mathematics and English according to need. This will allow progression to Level 3 study the following year.

In addition, students will be provided with enrichment activities to ensure that they have an enjoyable and

fulfilling Sixth Form life in the Academy. The Higher Education Programme will run throughout the two years of Level 3 study and includes an induction visit in September to Liverpool University, followed by a number of activities, including Progression Day, designed to prepare our students for University, Apprenticeship or employment post-18.

Dressed for success

Following our lengthy consultation process we arrived at a final design for our school uniform which incorporates the preferences expressed in feedback from pupils and parents.

We were delighted with the number of parents and pupils who took time to express ideas and opinions and we trust you will all be pleased with the final outcome (pictured).

Special fitting days were held in June where pupils were measured for their new uniform and able to see the designs first hand.

Importantly, the uniform features green as its accent colour, which could not be more appropriate given that Hope Academy will be the only school in the country with Sustainability as its

specialism. We hope that the uniform will remind us all of our duty of care to the environment; a duty we will actively promote and embed within the life of the Academy.



Academy blessed with special visitor

Hope Academy was blessed with an extra-special visitor in March as the Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, visited the School and met with some of our future pupils.



The Archbishop talks with pupils from Newton Community High School and St Aelred's.

The visit, which formed part of the Archbishop's two-day visit to the Liverpool Diocese, was hosted by the Bishop of Liverpool, James Jones.

Before taking a tour the Archbishop enjoyed lunch with some of the Academy's future pupils, discussing sustainability, which will be the Academy's specialism.

"This is a truly exceptional development and demonstrates what can be achieved when communities come together with a shared goal and vision pooling their skills, hope and trust in God", said the Archbishop. "I am sure Hope Academy will become a centre of excellence, opportunity and inspiration for years to come."

Among those pupils present was Peter Brown, aged 13, from Newton Community High School, who said: "The fact that the Archbishop came to see it shows just how important Hope Academy is." Caitlyn Clynes, aged 12 and also from Newton High, said: "The Archbishop was really nice and funny, he put us at ease. The Academy's big. I'm really excited about moving in."



Come and have a look...

Year 5 & 6
OPEN EVENING
29th Sept
6:30-9:00pm

We are inviting all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils and their families to tour the building and speak to our staff.

Hope Academy's building is one of the most sustainable and highly specified education buildings in the country.

Wind turbines provide off-peak electricity, the heating and hot water is to be generated by renewable sources on site and 20% of the building and 70% of the external landscaping will be made from recycled materials.

On September 29th we are opening our doors to all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils and their families to tour the building and talk to our staff. At 6.30pm you will also be able to listen to a talk by the Academy's Principal - John Gannon.



If you have a comment or question, please get in touch:

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