

INTRODUCTION



We are delighted to announce that we are working with Wates on the £40m Academy in Brent. The existing Crest Academy buildings were in need of modernisation and improvement, and the new 18,800 sq metre Crest Girl's and Crest Boy's Academies will consist of four separate buildings, one for girls and one for boys, with the two central buildings housing specialist subjects and sports. Reaching five storeys, each building will offer modern flexible teaching facilities including laboratory and workshop space and two indoor sports halls. Two multi-use games areas will be provided outside. The Academies as a whole have been arranged around a full height atrium in order to maximise natural light. Whenever environmental issues are being discussed today, it is increasingly 'normal' for discourse to turn to the issue of climate change. Whatever the issue being discussed, the potential contribution of the relevant activities to changes in climate through the emission of so-called greenhouse gases (GHGs) has become a critical determinant of how the environmental performance of those activities is perceived. As existing fossil fuel reserves have become unviable or unreliable, the challenge of providing a secure energy supply for power generation within Europe has increased significantly in terms of both financial and environmental cost.

The Crest Academies have been recognised as among the most improved in the UK. Rebuilding the academies is an essential part of the transformation as it will create a site to match the educational achievement and ambitions of students and local people.

It will also place the school right at the heart of the community, as a hub catering to a wide range of local people's needs. The project is also investing in the future by creating places for an extra 300 students over five years. The contractor will offer apprenticeships to local people and there will be an emphasis on using local labour and a local supply chain so the rebuild helps local people and businesses.

Crest Boys' and Girls' Academies are two single-sex schools each with its own principal, sharing one site. They are both sponsored by E-ACT which is working closely with the council and the academies on this rebuilding project. The redevelopment is the latest stage in an ongoing transformation of the two academies, which are in Crest Road, Neasden.

The existing buildings at Crest Boys' and Crest Girls' Academies are now more than 50 years old and are not in good condition. The original buildings also do not provide enough room for the number of students, and over the years temporary classrooms have been used to provide more teaching space. This does not make the schools easy to use, manage or maintain and it also reduces the amount of outdoor space available for teaching and recreation. The new Academies will create excellent facilities for students, staff and the whole community. We aim to place the academies at the heart of the local community and have resources such as a library and theatre with improved community use. The Academies will have excellent outdoor areas which will serve the needs of the Academies and the local community for both play and leisure. The project will be funded by central government. During the rebuild, disruption to lessons will be minimised as much as reasonably possible so educational standards are maintained. Care will be taken to limit noise and disruption to people living nearby and the project team will listen to any concerns raised by neighbours about the scheme. The aim of rebuilding the academies is to create institutions that students staff and local people can all be proud of, with state-of-the art buildings and excellent facilities for students, staff and the whole community.

The council and academies aim to provide:

- an inspirational place of learning in an attractive, calm and secure environment
- place the academies at the heart of the local community
- have excellent outdoor areas which will serve the needs of the academies and local community for both play and leisure
- resources such as a library and theatre with improved community use.

Current students and staff, parents of students at the academies and nearby primary schools, neighbours, local people and local community groups had the chance to give their views on proposed designs so they can play a role in shaping the future of the academies.

The local community will have access to the external sports pitches and the internal sports halls. They will also have access to a range of facilities within the new Academies, including the Learning Resource Centre, Theatre, Music studios, halls, dining and meeting spaces.

The new Academies have been designed to meet high sustainable standards, ensuring the redevelopment has a low environmental impact. The buildings have been orientated to maximise natural daylight (without glare or solar gain) innovative ways will be used by way of recycling energy to heat and ventilate the new buildings. Where possible, harnessing of natural resources, such as solar energy will be used.

