

# Building for our children's future



Last year, Harrow People told you about the start of Harrow Council's biggest school building project; the £15 million construction of Whitefriars. It's transforming the Edwardian primary school into an all-through school with room for more than 1,500 pupils.

Now, that school is nearly built. Andy Barr is Harrow Council's Project Manager on the site (pictured above right). He said: "My involvement in Whitefriars started early on in the life of the project. My initial role was to make sure that the design complied with a very exacting brief: technical and planning requirements, financial budgets, Harrow's educational requirements, consideration for the neighbours, site restrictions and the social needs of the local community.

"Being involved like I have has given me the opportunity to not only influence the design, but now that we are in the

construction phase the ability to deliver a fantastic product for the local community.

"Life for me isn't just about sitting behind a computer screen and attending meetings, I regularly get outside on site to keep an eye on the constructors – Kier.

"For this September we will be providing six classrooms – enough for the new pupils. The main teaching blocks and the heart building, where the sports hall and other community facilities are, will be completed by Christmas. The project will be totally completed in April next year and I'm happy to say we're on target to deliver on time."

Chris Spruce is Executive Headteacher of Whitefriars. He said: "After years of careful planning and eager anticipation, we are now at the start of a very exciting journey. When our first ever group of secondary-school students arrive, there will be a brand new state-of-the-art building and a

cadre of experienced and well-qualified staff waiting for them. This investment and these facilities will help us build a bright future together for our community here in Wealdstone."

Cllr Simon Brown is Harrow Council's Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People. He said: "The regeneration of Wealdstone is one of our administration's top priorities, and it's absolutely right that we put the children's needs first. The new Whitefriars School is going to provide excellent facilities and an outstanding education, bringing much needed extra places to avoid overcrowding at our other top quality primary and secondary schools in the area. I'm proud that the council is getting ahead of the game here, and delivering such magnificent buildings. We are very much looking forward to showing them off when they are finished."

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