

Great Park Academy Permanent Site Newsletter: December 2023

Welcome to our winter information update and newsletter.

Since the detailed planning application for our new school building was submitted in August there has been a lot happening behind the scenes. The teams involved have worked tremendously hard to address comments which were raised and, as you'll see from the picture below, there have been some small changes to look of the building. They have also worked on expanding some of the play and recreation areas as well as adding some extra eco features in the form of planting and rain garden areas.

It was hoped that the planning decision would be made before Christmas but it is now expected in early January. We will provide a further update on this in the New Year.

Following planning approval, early enabling works are scheduled to start on site in late January, with the main construction programme commencing in February. We are still on schedule for the school to be completed in time for a September 2025 opening.

NGP Consortium has appointed contractors to deliver the new playing pitches for Great Park Academy and they have begun work on site. When they are complete and the school is open, the pitches will also be available for community use outside school hours.

In January, some members of the Galliford Try team are visiting us for an assembly when they will introduce themselves to the pupils, talk a little about what their jobs involve, and give some ideas about the kind of careers opportunities which exist in a large construction company. Different members of the team will be visiting us at various points over the next 18 months and we are very much looking forward to the engagement and learning opportunities that their visits will bring.

We are really pleased with how well everyone has settled into the new classrooms which were completed over the summer holiday. Further classrooms, including a Science and DT room, will be brought onto site during the Easter holidays. They will then be set up during the 6 week break, ready for the new students joining us in September.

We have already had some informal preliminary discussions with Nexus and Newcastle City Council about next year's transport needs to the temporary site and we will meet with them once the admissions process is completed. At that point we will have a clear picture of exactly what is needed for September 2024 and we will continue to have regular updates with them moving forward.

We hope you have a good Christmas

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