



COLLEGES IN THE BLACK COUNTRY

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CASE STUDY

Working Together in Partnership

The Colleges in the Black Country not only work together, we work with other organisations to help deliver the best results for our students, for employers and the community in general.

The City of Wolverhampton College, the University of Wolverhampton and Wolverhampton City Council all came together to sponsor Wolverhampton's first Academy.

Their support and expertise will give the new school the opportunity to become a centre of excellence in teaching and to offer enhanced opportunities for progression to further and higher education.

The former Parkfield High School became the South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy with work carried out to refurbish classrooms, provide new social areas and upgrade students' facilities.

The Academy's specialisms in Engineering and Science reflect the strengths found within both the College and University. The strong links with both will also lead to greater opportunities for sixth-form students.

Diana Johnson MP and Pat McFadden MP, Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the MP for Wolverhampton South East visited the Academy.

Interim Academy Principal Rob Rossides said: "This Academy has taken just three months to come to fruition – which is testament to the commitment of a range of partners, including both the three main sponsors and staff from the predecessor school."

Support from the £28 million Black Country Challenge programme has also been provided to the school in its journey towards Academy status. The Academy will relocate to a brand new state-of-the-art school in Bilston by September 2012.

Another example of partnership is the learning initiative which has been launched between Earls High School, Leasowes Community College and Halesowen College.

A unique collaborative agreement builds on the strong partnership between the institutions and will allow students to study a highly personalised post-16 programme while benefiting from the continued support of a senior teacher who will be based in the school.

In addition, they have the advantage of continued relationships within their schools through extra curricular and other school based activities.

All collegiate students will have the opportunity to access the wide ranging curriculum from the college and the additional expertise provided by college staff will assist their progression to either higher education or a career with a recognised qualification.

Halesowen College Principal, Keith Bate, added: "The schools collegiate is a result of the very strong working relationships between partner institutions putting in place a most exceptional range of options for Halesowen students that is not available in other areas."