



Deer Park
School
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Bellevue Place
EDUCATION TRUST

BUILD UPDATE JULY 2020

Covid-19 Challenges: Whilst these have not gone away, it is fair to say that supply chains are beginning to open up and when we met with Kier, Lidl and the ESFA for our catch-up meeting on 13 July there was a confidence in the completion date which has not always been to the fore at past project meetings. There are possibly three reasons for this. Firstly the programme has caught up with a number of tasks which were awaiting external inputs (visits) from utility providers, chiefly UK Power Networks and Thames Water. Secondly, some major components which could not be brought to site before now including lifts machinery and moving walkway parts have arrived. These in turn mean that a date has been set for the removal of the crane in August. This last element will in turn allow the final works to progress in the area the crane was located. It seems clear that Kier have confidence that the development will be completed in December with provisional dates now being planned for the Trust's ICT provider to have access to install the school's kit from November. These are all very positive items of news which in turn give us confidence that the end is finally in sight.

Additional Classrooms: The ESFA, the Trust and Richmond and Hillcroft Adult and Community College (RHAAC) have agreed that Deer Park can have access to two additional rooms within the college. These are located on the ground floor and a temporary entrance will be constructed solely for Deer Park's use. This means that our children and teachers will be able to have their own private access to the additional space without going through the main college entrance. The Trust, school and the ESFA looked at a number of options before settling on what we feel is the best option given the challenges of Covid-19, the lack of any space to further expand in the car park and the need to not encroach on the play space we currently have. There are always compromises to be made and in this case one of our teaching rooms is smaller than we would have wished but following the meeting earlier this week, we are conscious that this will only be for 10 weeks.

Progress Achieved: The schools mechanical and electrical plant has been largely installed. The green roof is now going on. You will have noticed that the scaffolding is now being stripped from the south and east elevations. The gas and electricity meters are going in and the telephone line to the street cabinet is being installed. The kitchens are complete. Our classrooms are being painted and the floorcoverings are on site.

The glazing is now almost completed and the site office has been relocated. to the ground floor. The crane will be gone within the next few weeks and work has started on the external cladding and our amazing playground!

Finally we; myself, Alex our new head and Stuart (BPET's COO) have met and reviewed the colour and material choices. So it really feels as if the final furlong is in sight.



View of front elevation with scaffolding removed.

'Soft landings':

Our putative facilities management company have now visited the site and on Monday 20 July our ICT technicians will visit the site for the second time and be able to review the (now completed) server room.

Thank-you:

As this is my last update as acting head, I just wanted to say thank you everyone for the support and encouragement I have had from the whole school community not least our amazing teaching staff. I would also like to say a special thank-you to Paul Smith, Destiny Belle, Chris White and the team at RHAAC who have worked hard to ensure that we had our additional classrooms ready for September.

Concluding words:

Since our last newsletter, our cautious optimism is now dare we say it increased! Our contingency plans for September are in place with the temporary classrooms set up and ICT connections etc in place. It has been a challenging year but I am now more confident than at half-term that Deer Park will be triumphant and move into an amazing and sustainably constructed new school. Have a well-deserved and relaxing summer holidays and see you in September!