



Dear Parent, Carer or Guardian

We all want the best for our children and our communities and Barnsley Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme will provide just that.

Starting now, this exceptionally ambitious programme will provide some of the best facilities for learning in the country as we replace all our existing secondary and special schools over the next four years.

We are delighted to let you know that the council has successfully signed its contract for the construction of the first five of our nine new Advanced Learning Centres (ALCs) and two special schools. The builders are now on site at Carlton and the Dearne, and will be at Darton, Kirk Balk and Penistone Grammar School in the following few weeks. Construction work has been carefully planned to ensure that there is minimum disruption to current pupils' learning.

At the moment it is likely that the new ALCs will open:

January 2011: Carlton and Dearne
February 2011: Darton
April 2011: Kirk Balk and Penistone

Dates for the others will be announced later.

Some of the best architects in the country have created the designs of our ALCs which will provide inspirational learning environments which young people and the community can take pride in and call their own.

Whether your family wants to study, use the leisure facilities or come to a show, you'll be able to make the most of the facilities throughout the year, after school and at weekends.

The ALCs will provide fantastic learning facilities in which our young people can learn skills essential to today's world – such as ICT and working with others – alongside traditional subjects. New subjects such as manufacturing and engineering will be offered and the ICT facilities will be even better than they are now and will be available to pupils, teachers and adult learners.

BSF also presents us with an opportunity to ensure that a lot of the services such as health workers, youth workers, family support staff and others that you need will be provided at school, rather than parents and pupils having to travel across the borough.

As we go through the next four years, completing the contracts for the remaining four ALCs and two special schools and building all 11 facilities, there will be plenty of opportunities to discover more about these exciting new developments through activities, events and newsletters.

In the next few weeks, we'll be distributing packs containing lots more information and images of the ALC designs. In the meantime, have a look at our website www.barnsley.gov.uk/bsf, contact bsf@barnsley.gov.uk or come along to see our first BSF exhibition in The Mall Shopping Centre in July, (dates will be confirmed later).

Yours sincerely

Councillor Linda Burgess
Barnsley Council Cabinet Spokesperson for Children, Young People and Families

Edna Sutton
Executive Director for Children, Young People and Families



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