

# Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre

## NEWSLETTER

October 2014

### ► Kensington Aldridge Academy opens its doors for the new term



**Last month the Kensington Aldridge Academy welcomed 184 students when the new school opened its doors for the first day of term.**

Work began back in December 2012 and a total of £28m has been invested in building a much needed secondary school. The new academy is a local school serving the North Kensington community and all of its students live less than a mile away.

## Key features of the academy

### **The academy will deliver:**

- school places for nine hundred 11 to 16-year-olds and, from 2016, a sixth form for up to 240 students
- a first-class all-round curriculum focussed on developing students' entrepreneurial qualities and with a specialism in performing and creative arts
- a borough-wide resource centre for autistic students
- facilities such as the sports hall and dance studio available to the community outside of school hours
- dedicated entrepreneurial areas and support to assist students and members of the community in developing their business ideas.



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

# ► Design and layout of the academy

## The design and layout of the academy:

- the **lower ground floor** houses a sports hall, changing facilities and a 350-seat theatre
- the **ground floor** includes the school entrance and office, entrepreneurial areas, special education needs resource centre, double height dance studio, the sports hall reception, classrooms for music, performing arts, business and vocational studies and industry-standard radio and television studios.
- the **first floor** houses the dining area, including a terrace, the school kitchen, and classrooms for English, languages and the humanities
- the **second floor** holds a multi-use games area, terrace and science and maths classrooms
- on the **third floor** there are large art studio spaces and an art terrace for outdoor learning
- the **external areas** are home to a series of south-facing terraces for relaxation and outdoor learning.







**Councillor Emma Will, the Royal Borough's Cabinet Member for Education, said:** "To meet the growing demand for secondary school places, during challenging economic times we gifted the Kensington Aldridge Academy the site and contributed £10.4m from our reserves towards the construction costs.

"After years of hard work it is a proud moment for the Council to see the magnificent building that now stands in the heart of North Kensington. It's an exciting chapter for the academy's new students and we look forward to celebrating their future successes."

Principal David Benson was appointed a year ahead of opening to work with the sponsors on the development of the academy, and with local schools and parents as interest in the school grew.

**David Benson said:** "It is very exciting to welcome our first students to this wonderful new building. The past year has been about thorough preparation and planning. We have recruited an excellent team of teachers, many of whom have been with us for the last few terms helping to lead the school set up.

"Recently the Department for Education stated we were 'one of the best new academies they had ever seen' in terms of our planning and curriculum development. A strong validation and an excellent foundation on which we can now build."

**New student Kashale Phillips said:** "I'm very excited to be joining KAA because I know that I'm lucky to be joining a brand new school. All the teachers are really friendly."

**Parent Stephanie Tyrer added:** "It is clear a lot of thought had gone into making the Academy a serious but welcoming environment. We've been so impressed during the project with the determination of the school's senior management to build a centre of excellence: not just in creating a great facility, but in recruiting the teaching staff."

# ► Apply for a school place for September 2015

Applications are now open for students wishing to join the academy in Year 7 from September next year. Details of five open days/evenings being held over the next few weeks can be found on the academy's website [www.kaa.org.uk](http://www.kaa.org.uk)

## **Come along to October's open morning**

Residents are invited to an open morning on Thursday 9 October 2014 from 10am to 12am. There will be the opportunity to tour the school and meet its Principal, David Benson

If you are interested in attending please email [info@kaa.org.uk](mailto:info@kaa.org.uk)



# ► The journey to a new school

**October 2011** – architects Studio E appointed

**December 2011** – Cabinet agree to fund a new academy and leisure centre

**May 2012** – Planning application for new academy and leisure centre submitted

**September 2012** – Planning permission granted for new school and leisure centre

**December 2012** – Construction starts on the Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre site

# ► Kensington Aldridge Academy News

## **Introducing Kensington Creates:**

### **The Entrepreneurial Heart of Kensington Aldridge Academy**

The Kensington Creates Centre is a unique area situated in the academy building which is dedicated to helping students and members of the local community develop their business and social enterprise ideas.

In addition to a full curriculum the academy places particular emphasis on entrepreneurship – giving students the confidence to achieve whatever they want in life and driving aspiration.

The role of Kensington Creates is to ensure all students experience entrepreneurial learning and to help entrepreneurs access high quality, inspirational and tailored support to make their ideas happen.

If you would like to find out more about Kensington Creates, visit the academy's website [www.kensingtonaldrigegacademy.com](http://www.kensingtonaldrigegacademy.com) or contact the Creates Director, Natalie Campbell at [N.Campbell@creates.org.uk](mailto:N.Campbell@creates.org.uk)



## Autism Centre now open

The academy's Autism Centre provides specialist provision for students with social and communication difficulties, including autism and Asperger's syndrome.

The centre has specialist staff, including teachers and trained teaching assistants. Its aims are to help students participate, progress and achieve both in the centre and alongside their peers in mainstream lessons.

The centre is funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea but is run by the academy. You can read more about the Autism Centre by visiting [www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk/autism-centre](http://www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk/autism-centre)

## Academy partnerships developing

The academy has education advisory partners who are supporting the development of the curriculum and teaching.

**The Charterhouse School** is a boarding school with around 800 pupils, and **The Godolphin and Latymer School** is a day school for girls aged 11 to 18. Both schools achieve excellent examination results and Kensington Aldridge students will benefit greatly from these links.

The academy has a performing and creative arts specialism and there are two partners who will help to support this. **The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD)** promotes knowledge, understanding and practice of dance internationally. The **London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA)** is a world-class drama school and educational charity. Both will give students access to a level of expertise that is unusual in state education.

You can find out more about the partnerships and how they will benefit KAA students at

[www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk](http://www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk)



Mayor Maighread Condon-Simmonds at the recent topping out ceremony

## ► New Kensington Leisure Centre a step closer

At the other end of the site work is progressing well and the new Kensington Leisure Centre is on track to be open to the public by early next year.

In September the traditional topping out ceremony was performed by the Mayor of the Royal Borough Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds.

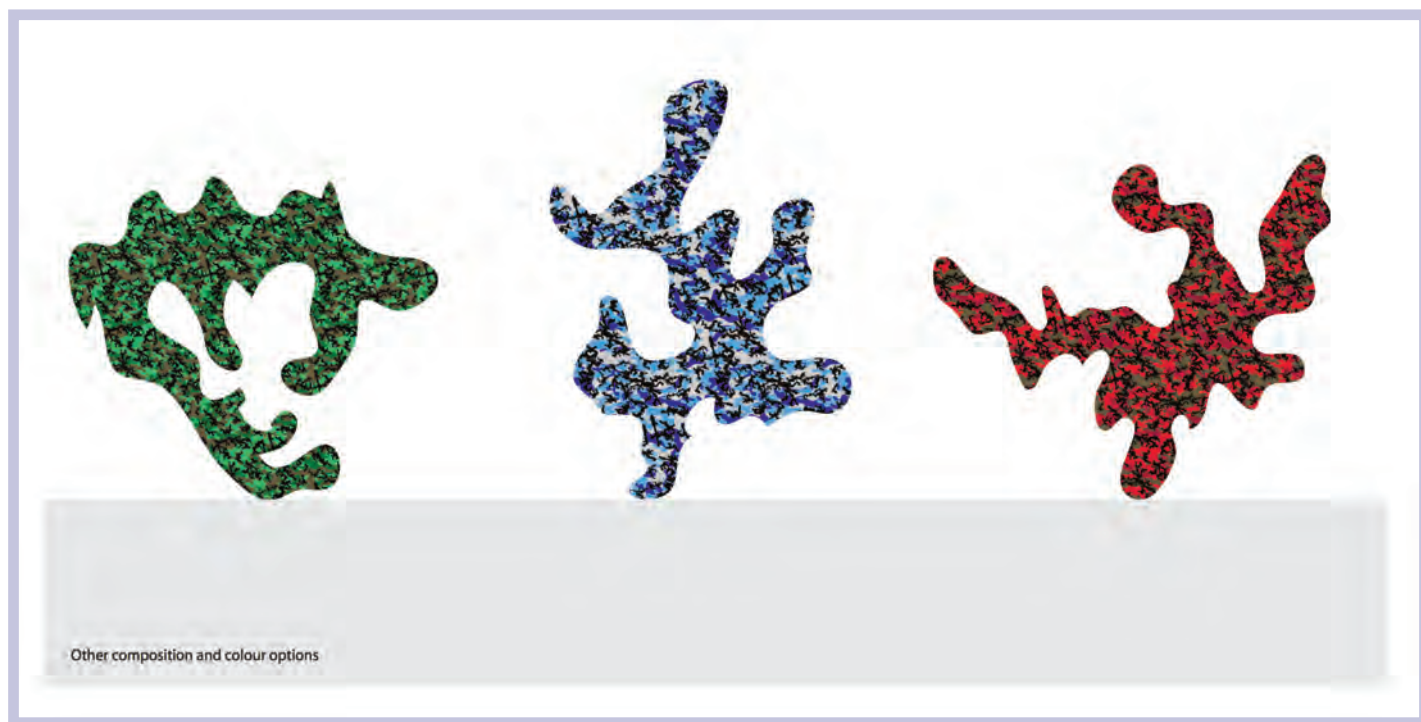
Highlights of the proposals include: a 25-metre, eight-lane swimming pool for teaching and swimming at all levels; 250-seat spectator gallery; 20-metre teaching pool with mobile floor; 120-station gym; eight-court multi-use hall; two fitness studios and sauna/steam facilities with treatment rooms.

The Royal Borough is spending £29.4m on a new Kensington Leisure Centre and Chelsea Sports Centre on Chelsea Manor Street recently benefitted from a new gym following a £1.36m refurbishment.

## ► Public art update

The Royal Borough's Public Art Panel has selected the artists who will create two works of art: one inside the new Kensington Leisure Centre and the other outside in the general location of the academy. Paul Hosking has been selected for the interior of the leisure centre and Nigel Hall for the outdoor public realm area – read their short biographies below.

We will update you in future editions of this newsletter on the timetable for production and installation of these works of art.



Artist's impression of what the leisure centre's public art could look like

### Paul Hosking

**Paul Hosking studied Fine Art at Plymouth Art College and Goldsmiths College, London.**

Hosking is a sculptor who works in a wide range of techniques and materials, including mirrored acrylics, extruded aluminium, jesmonite, etched glass, bronze and gold leaf. Sometimes his work involves complex image collages on objects. He also makes use of ready-made objects: books, coconuts, vases, toilet air fresheners, joke shop bones, taxidermy manikins, electric lights and motorized units. Recent work has employed industrial techniques: laser cutting, CNC routing and powder coating.

He has had solo exhibitions in London, Los Angeles, Sao Paulo and Berlin. For more information on Paul's work visit [www.paulhosking.co.uk](http://www.paulhosking.co.uk)





Artist's impression of what the public realm's public art could look like

## Nigel Hall RA

Nigel Hall studied at the West of England College of Art, Bristol and at the Royal College of Art, London.

Hall has had many exhibitions around the world and has been widely collected. His first tubular aluminium sculpture was made in 1970. In subsequent years he explored the ways in which tubular construction alters the viewer's perception of space. This interest in the qualities of spatial construction was balanced by an equally strong pre-occupation with the particular sites his sculptures occupy.

His recent work has been less minimal in feel, tending towards stronger, more solid forms, and a solo exhibition of his work was held at the Royal Academy in 2011.

For more information on Nigel's work visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/58](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/58)

## ► Improvements to Grenfell Tower

### Improvements to Grenfell Tower, on the Lancaster West Estate, started in the summer.

There are many facets to the scheme including new heating and hot water systems, new cladding and double glazing. Nine much needed new homes will also be created from unused spaces. In addition, there will be new facilities for a nursery and the Dale Boxing Club.

Work is progressing well on site and the old Social Services office is now an empty shell and the boxing club is being stripped out. Access equipment has been erected to either side of the building to facilitate the cladding installation.

The tower block is managed by the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO) on behalf of the Council and contains 120 homes.

The Royal Borough is funding the work as part of the wider regeneration of the area, which will see it transformed by autumn 2015.



A section of the new cladding on Grenfell Tower



## ► Contacts

You can continue to email us with your support, questions and concerns at **[kalcenquiries@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:kalcenquiries@rbkc.gov.uk)**

To find out more about the project visit **[www.rbkc.gov.uk/kalc](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/kalc)** and  
**[www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk](http://www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk)**

Information from this newsletter can be made available in different languages.  
For more details please contact **020 7361 3008**.