

# Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre

## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014

## ► Kensington Aldridge Academy reaches major construction milestone



**Construction of the Kensington Aldridge Academy's highest point was marked last month with a traditional topping out ceremony.**

Historically, the topping out ceremony marks the topmost beam being placed on the building to complete the structure. Its origins hark back to pagan times when the purpose of the ceremony was to ward off evil spirits and bless the building.

The topping out ceremony was attended by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Paget-Brown, the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Councillor Charles Williams and Chairman of the academy's lead sponsor, the Aldridge Foundation, Sir Rod Aldridge.

**The Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Nick Paget-Brown, said:**

*"Today marks the start of an exciting new chapter for the North Kensington community as we can really see the Kensington Aldridge Academy begin to take shape."*

*"By gifting the academy the site and contributing £10.4m towards the building, we are committed to ensuring that all of our children are able to access high quality secondary provision locally."*

**Sir Rod Aldridge said:**

*"This is a major landmark in the development of our exciting new academy, which will deliver high standards of education for local children and bring real benefits for the local community. Our open evenings last September attracted a fantastic amount of interest and I was struck by the real sense of excitement among the hundreds of parents and children who came along. I have no doubt that Kensington Aldridge Academy will be an exceptional school offering exceptional opportunities for our students."*

The academy will welcome pupils in September and the new Kensington Leisure Centre will open later in the autumn.

For more information on the project visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/kalc](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/kalc)



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

# ► Construction update



## Kensington Leisure Centre

Excavation of the basement level is now complete and the foundations have been dug. Work on the steel framework has begun and should be completed within the next three months.

Once the steelwork is finished, the contractors will start to work on the internal shells that will eventually form the changing areas, café area, sports hall and squash courts.

Concrete has been poured for the leisure, training and main pools.



## Kensington Aldridge Academy

The building is rapidly taking shape and all of the floors were completed towards the end of last year. At the moment the main priority on site is to make the building watertight through cladding and roofing.

With the structure of the building complete, the internal partitions that will eventually form the classrooms, dining hall and theatre are now being erected. Once this work has finished the painting, flooring and furniture installation will start. By the summer the finishing touches will be completed internally and also the external landscaping ahead of September's opening.





## Landscaping update

The Royal Borough has recently decided on the paving for the footpaths and walkways around the KALC site. It will be a hard wearing product widely used in other London boroughs, including the public realm areas of Covent Garden and the O2 site.

The planting scheme has also been finalised and the intention is to keep all of the key trees and to supplement them with new species including ornamental pear, oak, hazel, cherry and maple trees. This will create a ribbon of green along the east-west link and the tree species have been selected to enhance local biodiversity and to reinforce the rich horticultural heritage of the area.

The mixed species of trees will be surrounded with groups of shrubs and herbaceous plants that will create an attractive year round setting and provide an important habitat for wildlife.



## Log onto the KALC camera

A camera has been installed overlooking the KALC site so people can watch the building's progress online. To access the camera and read about the latest developments visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/kalc](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/kalc)

# ► Contacting Bouygues Group Leadbitter

### Contact details

**Keith McGinness,**  
Project Manager  
Kensington Aldridge Academy

**Rob Lynch,**  
Project Manager  
Kensington Leisure Centre

**Mark Gjeczaj,**  
Logistics Manager,  
both projects

**Liz Jeffs,**  
Community Engagement  
Coordinator

T: 0844 573 6453  
(Freephone)

### Regular community drop-in sessions

Bouygues Group Leadbitter has moved its offices from Baseline Studios and is now established on site. Community drop-in sessions will be held on the last Wednesday of every month from 12pm to 1.30pm – please see the directions on the hoardings.

### Employment and training opportunities

There are still a number of employment and training opportunities available at both the academy and leisure centre sites.

Opportunities are in trades ranging from carpentry, partitioning and flooring, through to project management. Bouygues Group Leadbitter is working with local agencies such as Clement James and the Harrow Club. If you are interested in pursuing an apprenticeship in construction, please contact Liz Jeffs at [liz.jeffs@bouygues-uk.com](mailto:liz.jeffs@bouygues-uk.com)

## ► Meet two of our KALC apprentices

### **Grant Webb, 18**

Great Western Road

*"I have been working on the KALC site for the past few weeks and I had previously been studying plumbing and electrical installation at the City of Westminster College.*

*"I heard about the vacancy through my step-dad who was helping me find a suitable apprenticeship as part of my studies. On site I am helping to fit the waste and rainwater pipes and it's a great opportunity for me to learn new skills right on my doorstep.*

*"I think the project is very exciting and will benefit residents of all ages."*



### **Thomas Bradley, 19**

Waynflete Square on the Silchester Estate

*"I'm training to be a site manager and have been an apprentice with Toureen Mangan for about a year now.*

*"I've been working on the KALC site for just over four months and it's definitely a bonus living a few minutes away from work. I've always wanted to get into construction and I'm proud to be able to get involved in a project that will really make a real difference to local people's quality of life."*

## ► Update on the KALC Public Art Panel

The Royal Borough's Public Art Panel has approved the KALC Art Strategy and this will be used to guide the works of art that are chosen on site.

The panel has decided that there will be two works of art: one inside the new Kensington Leisure Centre and the other outside in the general location of the academy. Artists are currently being shortlisted and will shortly be invited to outline their concept for one of the works of art.

A foundation stone recording the presence of a Victorian Bath House on the KALC site has been preserved and the group is also looking at ways this could be put on public display.

The next task of the panel is to involve the wider community in the project, including students who will be attending the Kensington Aldridge Academy from September 2014. We will let you know how to get involved and which artists have been shortlisted in future editions of the KALC newsletter.



# ► Kensington Aldridge Academy news

## Academy launches logo

In addition to the wonderful new building that is nearing completion on Silchester Road, the look and feel of the academy has developed further with the launch of its new KAA logo and motto.

With a strong modern design the logo will give academy students a clear identity in the area, and will be reflected in the forthcoming uniform design and in the building itself. The logo was developed with local company Doodle London, who are based on Barlby Road, and was designed to reflect both of the academy's sponsors, the Aldridge Foundation and the Royal Borough.



The academy's motto will be Intrepidus – a Latin word meaning 'bold' and 'adventurous'.

Principal David Benson said:

*"Intrepidus captures the entrepreneurial spirit of the academy. It expresses our belief that all students should be confident, resilient learners, who know that it is always better to try, and to learn from any setbacks, than to never try at all."*

## ► Life at KAA – what will it look like?

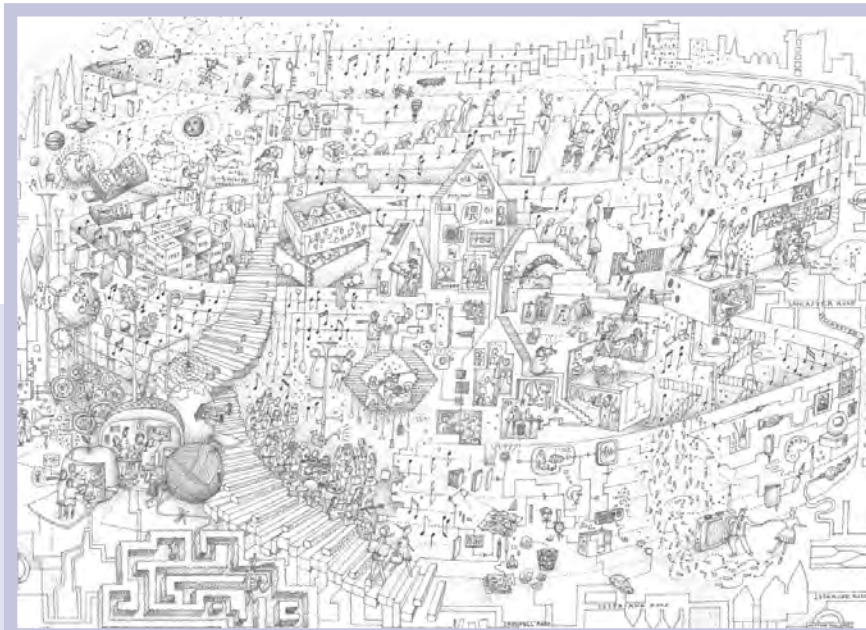
The academy recently commissioned an illustration that expresses aspects of 'Life at KAA' from Wynne James, a fantastic artist who has worked with the Aldridge Foundation on other projects.

Wynne's drawings are incredibly detailed and creative, and "Life at KAA" is a great example of his work. It captures many aspects of the academy's culture: Intrepidus, maths, English, science, drama, music, dance, sport, the house system and the entrepreneurial pods.

The drawing will be displayed on the internal walls and classrooms in the academy and in six foot high spaces so students and visitors can explore all its detail and complexity. It is also available as an interactive page on the academy's website,

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

We recommend zooming in to get the most from it – see what you can spot!



# ► New appointments to the academy



Anna



Emily

The academy has recently appointed two Vice Principals – Emily Boyle (Teaching and Learning) and Anna Jordan (Assessment and Curriculum), who both will take up their posts in April.

## Principal David Benson said:

*“Anna and Emily are both exceptional candidates who came through a rigorous process with applications from over 50 people nationally. Both have significant senior leadership experience in outstanding schools and both are – most importantly – excellent teachers.”*

*“I know that they are both really looking forward to meeting our students, parents and the local community when they start their new roles.”*

You can read more about Emily and Anna at [www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk/our-team](http://www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk/our-team)

January has been a busy month for teacher recruitment, with two very well attended Information Evenings for prospective teachers being held at the Isaac Newton Centre. The academy has advertised for two Assistant Principals and Directors of English, mathematics and science who will lead the teaching of those subjects and ensure excellent teaching and progress across their departments.

Recruitment has also commenced for the Academy Business Manager. Further positions at all levels in the school will be advertised over the coming months. If you are interested in applying for a position at KAA, please keep an eye on the academy's website recruitment page, where all positions are posted first.

## Academy open evenings get a great response!



In September the academy held two open evenings for parents and students considering applying for places in Year 7 when it opens this September. Kindly hosted by Avondale Park Primary School, these proved a great success, with standing room only.

## Principal David Benson said:

*“It was great to see so much excitement in the local community about our new academy. National offer day isn't until March 3rd, but I can say at this stage*

*that we received a high number of applications for Year 7 and the school will be full for September.”*

You can download a copy of the slides and video David Benson used at the open evenings from the academy's website,

[www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk](http://www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk). The Teaching and Learning section of the website also has updated information about the curriculum, performing arts specialism, sports and also after school/enrichment activities.

## Stay in touch with academy news

As September's opening draws nearer, if you would like to stay in touch with news and developments you can:

- sign up to KAA email newsletters by completing the contact form at [www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk/contact-us](http://www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk/contact-us)
- “like” the academy's new Facebook page – simply search for Kensington Aldridge Academy on Facebook
- follow the academy on Twitter [@KAA\\_Intrepidus](https://twitter.com/KAA_Intrepidus)



## ► Grenfell Tower

The Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (which is overseeing the works to Grenfell Tower) is reviewing tenders from a number of construction firms.

If these tenders meet the requirements of the project and are within the agreed budget, a contractor should be appointed within the next few months

There are many facets to the scheme including new heating and hot water systems, new cladding and double glazing. We will continue to report on the latest developments on the works to the tower in future editions of the KALC newsletter.



## ► Alternative sports and leisure facilities

### *Other GLL facilities*

*Chelsea Sports Centre will remain open throughout the works.*

#### **Chelsea Sports Centre**

Chelsea Manor Street, SW3 5PL

**Tel:** 020 7352 6985

**Underground:** South Kensington, Sloane Square

**Bus:** 319, 49, 211, 11, 22

GLL operate across London and three of its centres which are approximately one mile away from the old Kensington Leisure Centre include:

#### **Jubilee Sports Centre**

Caird Street, W10 4RR

**Tel:** 020 8960 9629

**Underground:** Queens Park, Westbourne Park  
Kensal Green

**National Rail:** Kensal Green

**Bus:** 6, 18, 28, 31, 316, 328

#### **Phoenix Fitness Centre &**

#### **Janet Adegoke Swimming Pool**

Bloemfontein Road, W12 7DB

**Tel:** 020 8735 4900

**Underground:** White City, Wood Lane

**Bus:** 283, 95, 7, 70, 72, 272, 228

#### **Porchester Centre**

Queensway, W2 5HS

**Tel:** 020 7792 2919

**Underground:** Royal Oak, Bayswater

**Bus:** 36, 27, 7, 23

### *Facilities managed by the Westway Development Trust*

*Facilities managed locally by the Westway Development Trust include:*

#### **Westway Sports Centre**

1 Crowthorne Road, W10 6RP

**Tel:** 020 8969 0992

**Underground:** Latimer Road

**Bus:** 295, 316, 72, 95, 220, 272

#### **Portobello Green Fitness Club**

3-5 Thorpe Close, W10 5XL

**Tel:** 020 8960 2221

**Underground:** Ladbroke Grove

**Bus:** 52, 228, 7, 23, 70, 452, 295



## ► Our thanks

During construction we realise there has been unavoidable disruption and inconvenience for those living close to the site and we would like to thank you for your continued patience.



## ► 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)**

To receive latest e-updates or information on residents' forums, drop-in sessions and other events email **[kalcenquiries@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:kalcenquiries@rbkc.gov.uk)**

Information from this newsletter can be made available in different languages.

For more details please contact **020 7361 3008**.