



News

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL NEWS RELEASE

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SHEFFIELD'S NEWEST SCHOOL FORGING AHEAD

SCHOOL children were given a sneak preview of the city's newest school last week – just weeks before it is due to officially open.

The teenagers, from Dinnington Secondary School in Rotherham, were shown round Forge Valley Community School, which will open its doors for the first time ever in September.

The brand new £26.5 million Stannington school is replacing Wisewood and Myers Grove secondary schools, following a merger between the two schools. It has been constructed as part of the city's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme – an ambitious programme to rebuild or refurbish the majority of the city's secondary schools. The programme is being run by Sheffield City Council in partnership with VINCI Construction and other members of the city's Local Education Partnership (LEP).

VINCI Construction, which is managing the building of the new school, arranged for the Year 11 pupils to visit the school, in conjunction with Mott McDonald and Sheffield Hallam University.

The 25-strong group of pupils were taking part in an engineering science project aimed at identifying a sustainable, effective model for increasing young people's awareness of engineering and engineering careers.

VINCI Construction Regional Director Keith Shivers said: "This was a one off opportunity to get youngsters to experience first hand how they can apply the physics and maths they have learned in the classroom to the real world. The opportunity provided here is another striking example of our partnership with the City Council and the Sheffield LEP going the "extra mile".

"There is a national shortage of pupils going into engineering, so this seemed a great way of showing some potential engineers of the future just how what they have learned in the classroom can be used in reality."

Cllr Jackie Drayton, Sheffield City Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families added: "Anything which brings the classroom to life is a good thing. I welcome young people getting a head start in this kind of field – especially when there is clearly a lack of youngsters going into areas like engineering."

The project was also being used to develop and test a model for the use of Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) interventions, linked to curriculum work in science at Key Stage 3.

Forge Valley Community School will open its doors to 1,050 11-16 pupils plus 300 17-19 pupils in the sixth form.

The school comprises of a main teaching block plus separate sports block and biomass boiler house.

The main block is three to four storey teaching accommodation arranged around a central atrium and adjacent performance hall.

