

## TRIO OF SCHOOLS OPEN THEIR DOORS

**Three new schools have opened their doors to students as part of Sheffield's multi-million pound Building Schools for the Future programme.**

Newfield and Silverdale Schools, together with Talbot Specialist School have moved into their new buildings as planned at the start of the new term this month.

The planning, design and construction of the new schools has taken more than four years, and has been made possible by the dedication shown by staff from the Children and Young People's Directorate School Development Team, the three Schools and the Local Education Partnership (LEP), a public - private sector consortium led by Taylor Woodrow. Working in partnership with Sheffield City Council, the LEP has been able to provide modern teaching and learning facilities for students, and the wider community.

Newfield and Talbot have been built on the same site, sharing some facilities, allowing students of both schools to work together which is a unique and successful way of working.

Newfield School has space for 1125 students aged 11-16 years, with Talbot catering for 120 students aged 11-18. Silverdale School will have 920 students at 11-16 years and 295 post 16 students. Silverdale School will also feature a Hearing Impaired Integrated Resource.

Modern teaching and learning accommodation has been provided including state of the art ICT facilities to ensure students, teachers and local communities have access to the latest technology. The schools also have access to a new 'Managed Learning Environment', a website that will enable students, teachers and parents to access information, learning and communication tools in a secure online environment.

The ICT systems in the new schools will be supported through a new ICT Managed Service, provided by the Sheffield BSF ICT provider, Civica Group Limited.

Silverdale represents an important achievement in successfully developing a new school that is sensitive to a greenbelt site. All three schools have achieved a 'very good' environmental rating, and feature rain water recycling, natural ventilation, and have over 4,000 square metres of 'brown roof' which helps to support the local environment.

The second stages of the work at the schools sites are now underway, which include the demolition of the old Newfield and Silverdale School buildings which will provide space for playing fields, car parking and outdoor social spaces. The work will be completed by the beginning of the Autumn Term in September 2009.

The three schools have cost £50 million to design and build with the buildings being managed by Taylor Woodrow Facilities Management under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract for the next 25 years. Overall, nearly £400million will be invested into the BSF project in Sheffield by 2014.

Cllr Andrew Sangar, Sheffield City Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, said: "Sheffield wants to give young people the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from learning which is why the BSF programme is so important for the city. These three schools are giving pupils and local communities new facilities that have been developed with them in mind and can take education and lifelong learning to a new era."

Sheffield has 27 mainstream secondary schools and 3 special educational needs secondary schools.

Through the BSF programme, PFI initiative and Academies investment, all secondary schools in Sheffield will have been rebuilt or refurbished by 2014. For more information visit [www.sheffield.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/bsf)

Ends

Notes to Editors:

The Sheffield Local Education Partnership (LEP) is a partnership between Sheffield City Council, Taylor Woodrow and Partnerships for Schools (BSF Investments). It is leading the delivery of the BSF programme in Sheffield, and is working with HLM and BDP architect practices, Civica UK Limited, Mott Macdonald and Rotary engineering. Visit [www.SheffieldBSFschoools.com](http://www.SheffieldBSFschoools.com) for further information.

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Sheffield City Council (SCC) was selected as a BSF Pathfinder Authority alongside

Bristol, Bradford and Greenwich therefore developing benchmarks for the future progression of BSF nationally.

Partnerships for Schools (PfS) is the delivery agency for Building Schools for the Future, and is operated and funded under a joint venture between DfES and Partnerships UK.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the largest single schools capital investment programme for over 50 years. The aim is to rebuild or renew England's state secondary schools estate during the lifetime of the programme.

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