



Birley Community College Newsletter

The Birley Community College Newsletter Issue No.2 October 2011

Welcome to the Second Edition of the VINCI Construction UK Birley Community College Newsletter.

The Last 3 Months

Since the last issue we have been busy establishing the site cabins and progressing the new building.

You may have noticed that site access has now moved to the new school access from Birley Lane. This access route which is temporarily being used by Construction traffic will become the main school vehicle access route after the completion of the new building. Construction Vehicles cannot access the site now through the old Thornbridge Avenue entrance and we would like to take this opportunity to thank residents for their patience whilst we established the new access from Birley Lane.

On the new building the land has been remodelled to a new profile, this has included the temporary storage of material on the parkland adjacent to the site. All the material stored in this area is required for a later phase of the scheme. The storage of this material has meant that it has not been hauled off site. If the material had not been stored on site then there would have been approx 2,500 lorry journeys to have removed this material and a further 2,500 trips to bring material back for the later phase. This has been avoided by the strategy that we have put in place.



Extensive Concrete Foundation works progressing

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The Steel Frame takes shape

The foundations and drainage works are complete. This has been an extensive process as a result of the ground conditions and a large amount of concrete has been used.

In July the steel frame started, this has progressed during the school summer holidays and continues until completion in October.

During the summer works have also been undertaken in the existing school to enabling the connection of the new building at the appropriate time.

Mineshaft

During the earthworks activity we discovered a mineshaft. This was unexpected as no one knew it was there. The shaft sat directly beneath the position of the new building

There were no records of the mineshaft so the discovery came as a surprise to everyone. The shaft has now been grouted and capped. Clearly evidence of a previous use of the site for Coal Mining!

Contact Details:

VINCI Construction UK Contact: Andrew Whaley, Project Manager

Address: VINCI Construction UK Ltd, Birley Community College, Thornbridge Avenue, Sheffield, S12 3AB

Email: andrew.whaley@vinciconstruction.co.uk

Tel: 0114 2366287

Sheffield City Council Contact: David Quarterman

Address: Sheffield City Council, Level 4, North Wing, Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PL

Email: david.quarterman@sheffield.gov.uk

Tel: 0114 2930248

The Next Steps

With the steel frame taking shape the concrete floors will be completed and the autumn will see work commence on the roof and walls to create a water tight building.

Internal walls will be constructed as work progresses inside the new building

The VINCI Project

VINCI staff have worked with a group of Students to undertake a Module of work called the 'VINCI project'. The project aims to bring Maths to life by utilising Maths learned in the classroom to design, plan, draw and cost a Primary school building.

The students split into teams and were given a brief to develop a design and bid for the contract to construct the Primary School Building. The groups were given an area of the school to survey to determine the constraints for the design. Maths was used extensively to detail the size of the building and calculate the construction costs.

The project culminated in the groups presenting their proposals and costings to a panel of judges from the Construction Industry. VINCI awarded certificates to all participants and a prize to the winning team. Team Construction² won the prize with their unusual but innovative cylindrical building.



The Steel frame installation continues

Facts & Figures

Some interesting numbers from Construction so far:

- We have excavated 35,000 tonnes of soil
- We have placed 7,500 tonnes of Concrete in the foundations
- Our Steelfixers have installed 127 km of steel reinforcement into the concrete foundations

Site Hoardings

After erecting the site hoardings students were given the opportunity to design an image to be painted on to the hoardings. 4 groups developed designs and these were decorated on to the hoardings



Prize Giving Day for the VINCI Project students

Working Hours

We are currently constructing the floor slabs which by the nature of work involves working extended hours to ensure that the concrete finish is correct. As we work towards the front of the school this may become more noticeable. Unfortunately the finishing of the concrete is weather dependant and takes longer in cold weather. We apologize for any inconvenience during this period and will try to keep any extended working hours to a minimum.

Public Notice Board

Notice boards have been erected near the site entrance and these display various interesting facts about the scheme

New Principal

As the new Principal of the Birley Federation of Schools, I have been amazed at the speed with which our new College is growing around us. Working with VINCI on this has been great, and they have been very accommodating in terms of working around our exam times. If you have any questions or concerns about how we as a College are managing the disruption and move next year, please get in touch.

Considerate Constructors

VINCI Construction UK are committed to the Considerate Constructors Scheme which monitors the projects interaction with the community. The site has been registered with Considerate Constructors scheme and you may have noticed signs and Banners have been erected.



More details about the Considerate Constructors Scheme can be found at:

www.ccscheme.org.uk



We remain confident that everything is going very smoothly and we are very excited by our new building.

Steve Robinson

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