

## **Work starts on Sheffield Academy's new £17 million building**

Multi-million pound building work to transform Parkwood Academy in Sheffield, has started in preparation for the modern new purpose-built academy to open just ahead of the Olympic Games in 2012.

The school, sponsored by leading education provider E-ACT, in Penrith Road, Shirecliffe, opened as an Academy in September 2009.

The new building, being managed by VINCI contractors, will boast state-of-the art learning and community facilities, and is to be built on the existing school site.

On completion, the newly-built Academy - which includes sports as one of its specialties, will include new teaching blocks, a fitness suite, gymnasium, and a synthetic flood lit 'MUGA' all-weather pitch with new 11-a-side football facilities. VINCI builders have started enabling works in readiness for the main construction, which will start later this year.

Mike Westerdale, Principal of Parkwood Academy, said: "Parkwood is already on the road to becoming an outstanding academy. The new academy building will not only be a great place to learn, it will be a facility for all the community. Our vision is to create a true 'learning village' with excellent facilities that will be used by the whole community and which will form part of the regeneration of the whole area."

Sir Bruce Liddington, Director General of academy sponsor E-ACT, which is working to transform education and opportunities for young people in Sheffield, said: "We are delighted with the progress made and that we are developing an exceptional new school building for our Academy. This is an investment in the future for existing and future pupils, and it will provide excellent facilities for pupils and the community for years to come."

A spokesperson for Sheffield City Council said: "We are looking forward to seeing the works for Parkwood Academy begin, and to continue to develop the strong working relationships that have been created between Parkwood Academy, Sheffield City Council, VCUK under the Building Schools for the Future Programme in Sheffield."