



WELCOME

to the winter newsletter

–my first since taking up post as BSF director. I have been very impressed by all the work done so far to make sure we get the fantastic new schools that Stevenage deserves. Pupils and teachers will continue to play a big part in this as well as Heads, architects and other specialists, and we always want to hear the views of parents and others in the local community.

Major projects always take a long time to deliver and to get right, so we don't expect building to start before 2010, but we are now about to start the next important stage. This involves choosing the right a private sector partner to deliver the detailed designs, building work and services.

Outline planning permission has been granted for our schemes that involve Nobel School, Marriotts and Lonsdale, where work will start first. The plans for these are available on our website at hertsdirect.org/bsf. They will also be featured in more detail in the next issue of the newsletter. This newsletter focuses on the proposals for the south of Stevenage, where we expect building to start a little later in 2011. I hope you find it interesting reading.

Simon Newland, Director of BSF



THE BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE PROPOSALS FOR SOUTH STEVENAGE

This newsletter sets out changes for Barnwell School, Greenside School and The Valley School. It includes plans for the Heathcote School site following its closure in 2012. Building Schools for the Future is about making sure that

our education system is transformed to become the best that it can be for the young people of Hertfordshire. It is an opportunity to embrace the best ideas in education, architecture, design, technology and standards.

in this issue

→ [Changes for The Valley School](#)

→ [Changes for Barnwell School](#)

→ [Changes for Greenside School](#)



BSF is short for...

Building Schools for the Future is a Government investment in secondary school estates to transform the learning experience of children. Funding will be rolled out across Hertfordshire over the next 10 – 15 years starting in Stevenage. The money will be used to renew, refurbish or rebuild the town's schools.

www.hertsdirect.org/bsf



ABOUT THE VALLEY SCHOOL

The Valley School is a Special Educational Needs facility for 170 children. The special needs of the pupils include ADHD, autism, speech and language difficulties and other syndromes and medical conditions. Some of the children are in care and some have previously refused to attend school.

The Valley School vision is to become a centre of excellence and expertise that will facilitate all aspects of SEN across Stevenage, be pioneering and become a model of excellence for the rest of the UK. This would require integrating key SEN services including occupational and physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, 16-19 vocational training, teacher and parent training.

Working closely alongside health and social care, the school plans to work with other schools in the town to ensure they all have appropriate accessibility and coverage of all relevant health and social care agencies. The school visualises opening year-round with vocational courses over holiday periods for both students from the Valley and other schools in Stevenage.

The Valley School intends to work for specialist status in two areas of the curriculum, such as science and PE.

The Valley School works to ensure that every child in school is respected, knows that they are valued and that they will be supported to achieve in all areas irrespective of their level of need or ability.

“The school provides a trusting environment where all members of the community can feel secure. From this starting point everyone associated with the school, including governors, staff, parents and pupils, will work together towards a positive and dynamic future.”

KEY FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS:

- The existing Barnwell School site will accommodate the relocated Valley School, playing field for the new Barnwell School and the Shephall Leisure Centre which will remain as a shared education/community facility.
- The relocated Valley School will accommodate around 170 pupils and have around 60 staff
- The majority of buildings on the site will be refurbished for use by the Valley School and a number will be demolished, including the three-storey block, the temporary classrooms and the outdoor swimming pool
- The new Valley School site will have a 75-space car park and a new link will be provided between blocks A and B.
- There will be a number of areas of informal soft space inside as well as grass playing fields in two areas

BSF offers a unique opportunity to refurbish the Valley School so that it can become a special school that is at the cutting edge of developments.



Heathcote pupils set out their ideas for a new school

ABOUT BARNWELL SCHOOL

Barnwell is a large and successful 11-19 mainstream school with a desire to do the very best for all its students.

“The school has a clear focus on its role as a learning community. This is shown in its published aims of ACE:

Achievement – maximising individual achievement

Community – creating extensive links with the community

Environment – creating the best possible learning environment”

Learning is at the heart of what the school is about.

It took over the site and students of Collenswood School in 2006 and currently operates the enlarged school on two sites – as a middle school and upper school.

The school is home of the Shephall Leisure Centre, a lottery funded provision operated in conjunction with Stevenage Borough Council. Heathcote and Greenside schools also have access to the centre during the

school day. The sites are open 7am – 10pm seven days a week and its community use – more than 2,500 people use the existing school site each week – is held as an example of good practice in Hertfordshire.

“We seek with BSF to enhance and develop the fundamental principles of the school. The potential is enormous and the commitment absolute.”

KEY FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS:

- Close the existing Heathcote School and vacate the Barnwell East (former Collenswood) site
- Relocate the Barnwell School to the existing Heathcote School site and expand the school buildings to accommodate 8 FE
- Co-locate the secondary school element of the Greenside Special School with the relocated Barnwell School
- Retain and refurbish the existing Greenside Special School buildings for use by primary school age children only
- Co-locate the East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust’s proposed new Enhanced Primary Care Centre for the south Stevenage area with the relocated Barnwell and Greenside secondary Schools
- Retain the playing field area on the existing Barnwell and Collenswood sites for use by the relocated Barnwell School
- Relocate the existing Valley Special School from its current site in Valley Way to the northern part of the existing Barnwell School (west) site
- Retain the Shephall Leisure Centre on the existing Barnwell (west) site for shared use by the schools and community

ABOUT GREENSIDE SPECIAL SCHOOL

Greenside School is a mixed day, community special school for pupils aged 2-19 who have been assessed as having severe or profound learning difficulties. The focus of learning at Greenside School relates to the development of communication, social interaction and relationships and physical and sensory development.

“Working as one, learning together”

The school aims to create a supportive community where all members learn and develop together within a culture that

reflects positive attitudes and beliefs and which ensures that everyone is treated with respect and dignity. The school intends to achieve its aims through a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum in a calm, structured and happy environment where everyone feels trusted, respected and safe.

Through the BSF changes, Greenside is committed to developing a genuine partnership with Barnwell Secondary School that will transform the expectations, practice and outcomes for all pupils, parents, staff and the wider community.



continued overleaf

KEY FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS:

- The existing Heathcote School site will accommodate the new Barnwell mainstream secondary school, the secondary element of the Greenside Special School and the PCT's Enhanced Primary Care Centre for the south Stevenage area
- The relocated Barnwell School will accommodate up to 1600 pupils, including up to 400 pupils in the sixth form, and a total staff of around 250
- The Greenside Secondary School will accommodate 64 pupils and around 37 staff
- Barnwell School will continue to be the extended school hub, providing a range of facilities for out of hours community use
- The majority of the existing Heathcote School buildings will be retained and refurbished for Barnwell School and Greenside School with a few small buildings being demolished
- Up to 8,000 square metres of new buildings will be added to accommodate the 8 FE school and the secondary element of Greenside Special School. These buildings will have a number of shared facilities such as dining hall, library and staff room
- The site will also accommodate the Primary Care Trusts Extended Care Centre with a number of additional services supporting patients across Shephall, Roebuck and Bedwell wards. The PCT is working with local practices to provide additional GP capacity by their inclusion in the scheme.
- An all-weather pitch and multi-use games area will also be provided on the site



“BSF presents an opportunity to challenge and transform expectations, aspirations and outcomes for young people leaving school. This would be achieved through the school working in partnership with all interested parties in supporting the student until the age of 25.”

WHAT ABOUT MY SCHOOL?

	Extent of building work	Proposed start dates
The Nobel School	Remodel, extend and refurbish.	2010
Marriotts and Lonsdale School	Essentially rebuild and co-locate onto the Marriotts site.	2010
The Thomas Alleyne School	Proposal to rebuild TAS in Great Ashby.	2013
Barnwell and Greenside School	Remodel, extend and refurbish and co-locate onto the Barnwell site.	2012
John Henry Newman RC School	Remodel, extend and refurbish.	2012
The Heathcote School	The school closes in 2012	
The Valley School	Refurbish and re-locate.	2014
Education Support Centre	Remodel and re-locate.	2014
The Barclay School	Remodel, extend and refurbish.	2013

FURTHER INFORMATION

To contact a member of the BSF team: please email: bsf@hertscc.gov.uk

For further information on Building Schools for the Future please visit: www.hertsdirect.org/bsf

This newsletter is produced by Sharon Robinson, Hertfordshire County Council, Children, Schools and Families Communications. Please email any feedback or contributions to sharon.robinson@hertscc.gov.uk
Winter 2008/9