

Investing in inclusive education

The council's significant expansion at Meadow High School is creating 98 new places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). *Hillingdon People* visited to see the improvements.

The multi-million-pound investment has delivered a new two-storey building at the school's Royal Lane site in Hillingdon, and a new satellite school is under construction in Northwood Road, Harefield.

New classrooms and specialist teaching spaces, including science, music, food technology, fitness, sensory, hygiene, therapy, medical and quiet study rooms, replace the previous temporary modular classrooms at Royal Lane.

These spaces connect to the existing school building via an internal corridor and externally through new walkways and a covered canopy area, which can also be used for teaching and social activities.

This part of the expansion has delivered eight new places and reprovided 82, with work completed in time for the start of the current new school year.

A new satellite school

The second phase of the expansion project is the creation of the school's new teaching building and satellite school at Northwood Road, which replaces an unused residential block.

The new build will provide 90 additional places and increase the council's ability to accommodate growing numbers of students with SEND.

The school will feature six classrooms, including science, food technology, art,



Cllr Jonathan Bianco, headteacher Graham Cunningham, and Cllr O'Brien at the site in Royal Lane

independent living, and speech and language rooms, as well as a library/common room.

There will also be a space for physiotherapy sessions, a fitness room, hygiene rooms, medical facilities, kitchen and dining areas, a conference room, staff area, breakout spaces, storage, administration facilities and toilets.

Additional features include an eco-roof and solar panels to provide renewable energy, a new multi-use games area, car parking and cycle parking spaces and revised vehicle access.

Where possible, materials from the former site will be reused or recycled as part of the council's commitment to combatting climate change.

Delivering for our residents

The council moved to ensure that work continued when its previous contractor for the expansion filed for administration last year.

It has directly managed the remaining delivery of the project, working alongside multiple contractors, many of which are local businesses.

Teams have worked hard to complete the Royal Lane phase of the expansion as quickly and efficiently as possible. At Harefield, work restarted on site in September and is expected to complete next summer.

Cllr Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education,

said: "We continue to deliver on our pledge to provide children in Hillingdon with a high quality and fully inclusive education. This includes creating more school places for children with SEND, helping them to reach their full potential in a supportive learning environment."

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