

## Breaking the Link

by David Williamson

In 2005, Haringey Council and its secondary and special schools developed a **Strategy for Change** in the education of 11-19 year olds. *Bright Futures* provided a clear vision for what we wanted to achieve in the *Building Schools for the Future* programme. A key aim at the time was to break the link between disadvantage and low achievement in order to create prosperous, inclusive and sustainable communities for the 21st century.

The BSF programme is now almost complete and the **£214m** investment has made a major difference to Haringey's secondary schools, including:

- A positive change in outcomes for young people, despite major disruption caused by building works;
- A new secondary school and a new sixth form centre – increasing the choice of options for children and parents
- All special schools now on inclusive secondary school sites
- Extensive improvements in the physical environment – with new, remodelled or refurbished classrooms
- An ICT managed service for all secondary and special schools giving more robust solutions in an increasingly IT-based world
- Flexibility and adaptability of spaces to future changes in curriculum or school organisation



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Evaluations in each of the schools show an overwhelmingly positive response by pupils and staff to the BSF investment.

The stage is set to build on the major achievements in the past few years and make use of the new resources and facilities that schools now have. Much still remains to be done, but Haringey's schools are in a strong position to capitalise on the expert capabilities of staff, the enthusiasm of pupils and parents and the BSF investment to achieve the aspirations of all.



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