

“It’s better, it’s  
brighter, it’s  
welcoming”



The project at The Young People’s Centre was completed in spring 2010. Today, students and staff are making the most of its new facilities.

## Building Schools for the Future: Transforming The Young People's Centre

### Our school, our learners

The secondary pupil support centre (PSC) is Haringey's provision for permanently excluded young people who live in Haringey or are from an out of borough school where they have been permanently excluded.

The centre also takes Children in Care, who move into borough and are waiting for a school place, and students with a Statement of Special Education Needs who are struggling because of behaviour. Our learners can have diverse and complex range of needs, and challenging behaviour.

The PSC, until June 2009 was on two sites – with Key Stage 4 located in Wood Green and Key Stage 3 in Muswell Hill. The first decisions made as part of the BSF process was that the Wood Green site would be substantially remodelled. When the work was carried out we would continue to occupy our Muswell Hill site, returning to Wood Green in 2010 as a permanent one site provision.

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### Bringing it to Life

The Wood Green site was originally a primary school. The site did not therefore provide the best environment for a mainly Key Stage 4 cohort. There were 5 teaching rooms in a main building leading off an octagon shaped central area that had a multi functional use, namely dining area, indoor games, assemblies, and staff meetings.

From those 5 teaching rooms were created an ICT room, and a music room with keyboards. A small food technology area, with a cooker was also created from the space. In 2003 we placed 3 portacabins on our external space to create classrooms for art, maths and our nurture group. While this created more internal work space it lessened the external area for use by our learners. Workspace for adults was limited and if multi-agency meetings took place a classroom had to be used.

Bev Randall, headteacher of the centre explains that: "We were delighted when the local authority announced that we would be a part of the BSF programme, and we couldn't wait to see it actually happen."

Bev and her team begun to work with the council and Watkins Gray International, the design partners, to design and plan the new site.

Haringey is aiming to support children with behaviour, emotional and social needs in a number of ways.

The borough is seeking to increase the capacity of all schools to include children and young people within the mainstream setting. Haringey is also aiming to ensure that schools have access to a range of ways to help prevent exclusions and keep them to a minimum.



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### A vision – supporting young people

The designs for remodelling the centre were aimed at meeting the complex needs of young people. The vision for the centre was to provide a modern, ICT rich space with the flexibility to meet individual needs and support group working. Some of the key aims of the project were to provide:

- A broad, balanced, rich and relevant curriculum with differentiation to suit social, emotional and behavioural needs.
- Spaces for general teaching, practical specialist rooms, ICT, improved learning resources and storage



- The ICT to enable children and young people to access the curriculum
- The facilities for teaching in small groups or one-to-one working
- Access to outdoor curriculum spaces
- Safe indoor and outdoor spaces for withdrawal, learning and behaviour support, social interaction and recreation
- Rooms to enable a range of therapies to give children and young people access to learning
- The facilities for the development of practical, vocational and independent living skills

## Building Schools for the Future: Transforming The Young People's Centre

### What's new at the Centre

The main new features of the centre include:

- A new hub at the centre of the school providing an internet style café
- A purpose built air conditioned ICT suite, providing the most robust PCs for learners

“Its better, it's brighter, it's welcoming.”

Year 9 student



- Purpose built rooms for food technology with four cookers / work stations
- A brand new indoor sports area with external access to our multi-use games area
- Changing rooms with shower facilities and new toilets
- Eight new flexible learning areas, equipped with new furniture and Interactive Whiteboards
- An art room with new furniture and Interactive Whiteboard
- A music room equipped with keyboards connected to the latest PCs

“When I first came here I was so happy. I actually screamed.”

Year 10 student

## Building Schools for the Future: Transforming The Young People's Centre

### What's new at the Centre

- A design and technology room equipped with practical tools and machinery
- A suite of rooms to enable multi-disciplinary and multi-agency work to take place in a confidential way especially with those agencies where there is the need for regular meetings. These groups include Connexions, Children in Care, Youth Offending, Children's Services and most importantly the centre's parents and carers.
- New staff facilities including a new reception, admin area, new staffroom, toilets and showers
- Outdoor space for learning and relaxation



“ Having the outdoor space makes me feel more normal.” Year 9 student

- A permanent dining area, encouraging learners to stay on site
- The existing administration area has been remodelled to provide a therapy suite, staff and professional accommodation
- New ICT (computers, interactive whiteboards), cabling, server rooms and floor distributors for ICT throughout the entire school

## Building Schools for the Future: Transforming The Young People's Centre

### Modern technology at their fingertips

The centre is benefiting from new cabling, a new network and an impressive ICT café style hub. ICT is playing an important role in transforming the way that young people are learning and their appreciation of the space.

Students and staff also have access to a number of laptops, while teaching staff are making the most of their interactive whiteboards and projectors.

The centre has a new telephone system linked to emails.



“I’m loving every minute of it. With a proper network, the internet, and control over what the children can see, it’s so much easier for me to do my lessons.” Helen, ICT coordinator

The focal point of the Octagon is a new purpose built internet café. The vision here was that it would be ‘the place to be’ and especially at lunchtime to encourage learners to stay on site. At each of its previous sites the centre had one interactive whiteboard. All classrooms are now fully equipped with interactive whiteboards and teacher laptops.

## Building Schools for the Future: Transforming The Young People's Centre

### Modern technology at their fingertips

Staff from the centre have been working closely with RM – the organisation that provides and supports ICT in Haringey secondary schools.

Staff are now engaging with new technology to help deliver a curriculum that is interactive and inspirational to our learners.

The centre has also adopted SIMS as its chosen management information system; this should allow staff to have quick and easy exchange of information with our mainstream partner schools. SIMS will also transform the way that the centre can track learner progress.

“The computers are better. It's important that we use up to date computers.” Year 7 student



Already staff have observed lessons where the teachers are using the interactive whiteboards to present new learning and deliver lessons in an interactive way. Staff are developing their use of different software that enables a more personalised approach.

### Looking Ahead

- Attendance will be improved
- The centre's partnerships with student's 'home' school will be strengthened
- There will be a more personalised learning experience
- There will be improved attainment for all our young people
- There will be improved multi disciplinary work

### Conclusions

Looking back at the journey that the centre, its staff and students have made, Bev Randall says: "We've got a fantastic building. Together we have turned our vision into reality."

The BSF process has been a challenging yet well supported one. And staff point to the strong leadership from the authority and a tight monitoring process as being key among the many reasons for the projects success.



**“The atmosphere here is happier.  
I can do more learning.”** Year 9 student

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### FACT FILE...

The new facilities were first open to students and staff in May 2010

The Architect for the school is Watkins Gray International

The Contractors were Breyer Group



[www.haringey.gov.uk/bsf](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/bsf)