

## **Callerton Academy New School Build Update – December 2022**

The Gosforth Group, Newcastle City Council and the DfE have put together some FAQs which we hope will cover most of the questions you may have about the new school build.

### **When will construction start on the site?**

The Department for Education (DfE) is working as quickly as possible to appoint a new contractor to deliver the permanent school buildings for Callerton Academy. Construction will start as soon as the main contract is awarded – anticipated in the autumn of 2023. Enabling works will start sooner where possible, subject to the necessary statutory consents.

### **When will the new school open?**

It is hoped that the new school buildings will be completed for teaching and learning during the summer term of the 2024/25 academic year.

### **What will the building look like?**

Once a new contractor is appointed, they will develop their own design for the school and hold a public consultation where plans for the building will be available for review and comment prior to submission to the local planning authority. The DfE has upgraded the design requirements for the school building to meet the very latest specification for new schools. This includes new sustainability features, such as increased insulation, a green roof to increase bio-diversity and photo-voltaic panels to generate green electricity, with the aim of achieving Net Carbon Zero in operation.

### **Who will own the site?**

Newcastle City Council (NCC) owns the freehold in the land at Bedeburn Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE5 4LG. NCC has agreed to enter into an Agreement for Lease with the Secretary of State for Education. NCC will grant a 125-year peppercorn lease of the secondary school site to the Gosforth Group.

### **Who will the main contractor be?**

The contractor will be procured competitively via the DfE's Contractor's Framework 2021 (CF21). Procurement is due to start in January 2023 and the successful contractor will be appointed under a Pre-Contract Services Agreement (PCSA) in spring 2023.

### **Does the site already have planning consent for a school?**

The proposed secondary school was part of the planning application for the recently built Simonside Primary School on the neighbouring site. As a result, the secondary school already benefits from Outline Planning Permission under reference 2019/1287/01/DET, details of which can be found using the Council's Public Access System. This means that the principle of building a secondary school in this location has been accepted.

A Reserved Matters application was submitted earlier in 2022 by Caledonian Modular Limited, prior to them entering into administration. This application has not yet been determined and the DfE is keeping Newcastle City Council planning team up to date with progress on a new contractor appointment, and whether a new or updated submission will be needed in the future.

### **Why has construction of the school been delayed?**

The department is conducting a new procurement exercise for a contractor to deliver Callerton Academy's permanent accommodation. This comes after two unsuccessful procurement exercises. One with Caledonian Modular (CML), aborted due to the contractor entering into administration and the second, a proposed direct award through the DfE's Construction Frameworks which was terminated due to commercial issues.

### **Where will pupils be taught up to the new building opening?**

Callerton Academy opened in a newly refurbished and reconfigured school in Grainger Town, Newcastle, in September 2021. Further investment from the DfE will be used to open up and refurbish additional spaces within this temporary accommodation to accommodate the additional year groups required, and cater for KS4 curriculum requirements of the current cohort.

This will include remodelling the hall and dining room area and opening up the top floor to provide a third science laboratory, food science room, ICT suite and a second large multi-use space for teaching PE and drama.

### **How will site security be managed until construction starts?**

The site is owned by Newcastle City Council who are responsible for fencing and security until the appointed contractor takes possession to start construction. We are aware of some recent anti-social behaviour and trespassing onto the Callerton Academy and Simonside Primary School sites. NCC have already put some additional security measures into place to try to reduce the risk of future incidents and are considering what else could be done

### **What about transport to the temporary site?**

Newcastle City Council currently supports transport and travel costs between the permanent site and Grainger Town for Callerton Academy students. Coaches are provided for Year 7 and vulnerable students, and travel passes for all students and discussions are ongoing with NCC and the DfE about continuation of this arrangement into future academic years as a result of the construction delay.

The City Council met with Nexus in November to discuss scholar buses and network capacity and requested that they review provision and levels of usage to ensure that there is sufficient capacity

at the right times. The City Council also shared information with them about the temporary arrangements and future permanent sites. This will be followed up in the new year.

**Will the quality of teaching and learning be affected?**

The quality of teaching and learning at Callerton Academy will continue to be of the highest standard. This has been highlighted by our current community of students and families. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum which offers subjects even beyond the National Curriculum. Our curriculum is enriched by partnerships with local providers in STEM, sport and the arts. Our current city centre location allows our curriculum and extensive extracurricular activities to be enhanced by trips and visits to places of interest in the city centre and the whole region.