



Armfield Academy

Newsletter

August 2017

How Armfield Academy will look

At a design consultation event held on 3 July at The Burlington Pub, Conlon Construction unveiled the proposed designs for Armfield Academy.



These proposals have now been submitted to Blackpool Council and by September we should know if they have been accepted by the Planning Committee. The designs were featured in *The Gazette* on 5 July (see pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter).

More pictures and details can be found on *The Gazette* website:

www.blackpoolgazette.co.uk/news/education (Search Armfield Academy)

What is the Fylde Coast Academy Trust ?

Armfield Academy will be part of the Fylde Coast Academy Trust (FCAT). FCAT is a highly respected multi-academy trust whose aims are to contribute to improvements in education on the Fylde Coast. It will achieve this by developing teaching, learning and leadership in all its academies resulting in improved outcomes and life chances for learners.

By September 2017, it will have 9 academies within its Trust.



Admissions

We continue to have a large number of expressions of interest from parents wanting to apply for places at Armfield Academy for their children in 2018. This is a reminder that Armfield Academy will be part of Blackpool Local Authority's admissions process. This process begins in October 2017. Their website is:

www.blackpool.gov.uk/schooladmissions

The Admission arrangements for Armfield Academy are on our website:

www.armfieldacademy.co.uk



Special Report

First glimpse of how new Armfield school will look

Plans are submitted for South Shore school

FEATURE

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New images have been revealed of how a multi-million pound new school for South Blackpool is set to look as the plans are submitted to the council.

The Armfield Academy will be built on three sites centered on the former Arnold School site in South Shore, where Blackpool FC and England legend Jimmy Armfield went to school.

If planning permission is granted it will provide 1,280 places for pupils ranging from two to 16-years-old, across a development of 13,715 sq m, plus playing fields and multi-use games areas.

The three storey school will be run by Fylde Coast Academy Trust which is already in charge of seven schools and the contract for the build is being led by Conlon Construction working with Chester-based Lovelock Mitchell Architects and NJL Consulting. Arnold School occupied the site between 1896 and 2012 but it has been vacant ever since.

FCAT Community Relations and Estates Lead John Topping said: "Everything is on course, the Section 10 consultation document is ready to be submitted to go alongside the planning application made this week and we are very much looking



An artist's impressions of how the Armfield Academy could look

forward to getting on with the project.

"We have had a very positive reaction from the community, who are thrilled we are build a very impressive school as you can see from the drawings.

"We are working very hard

on the curriculum planning ready for the first phased intake in September 2018. "This is going to be the first all through school for the Blackpool South area, based on the successful Unity model.

"They will come into our

school at two and come out at 16 with the benefit of not having to undergo transitions between different schools. "And on that score we have Principal Chris Lickiss bringing his expertise from leading Unity to be the head." He said the FCAT board were

very aware of the needs of the surrounding community and would be working hard to keep disruption to a minimum. He said: "We appreciate that the site has been neglected and the grounds maintenance is very important to us.

"The borders and the shrubs are going to be well looked after and we will make sure the site is kept tidy and clean through the construction." The phased programme of works will start in autumn with the first student intake due in September 2018 and overall completion due in spring 2019.

The first pupils taken in will be 24 youngsters in its nursery, 60 in reception, and 160 in Year Seven.

The school was originally to be named Avenue Academy, but Fylde Coast Academy Trust bosses did a U-turn after a consultation showed

86 per cent of respondents backed honouring Jimmy Armfield for his contribution to Blackpool football and the local community. John Hicks, design manager of Conlon Construction, said: "The school has been carefully designed to reflect the needs of Fylde Coast Academy Trust, while also ensuring an attractive, high-quality scheme which complements the character of the local area.

"The school will be a positive contribution to the education system within Blackpool, providing excellent facilities within a purpose-built development." Charlotte Wynn, of NJL Consulting, said: "The re-use of the site for education purposes is a fitting tribute to the site's history and ensures a long-held tradition at Arnold Avenue is not lost, but is brought back and enhanced for future generations."



7 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS OPERATED BY FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST



1,280 Number of places at new school for pupils aged 2-18

2018 Year when academy is set to open its doors



Statutory Consultation

During the pre-opening period, we have conducted our duty under Section 10 of the Education Act which requires our trust to consult with the local community as to whether or not to open our Free School. A report on the outcomes of our consultation must be submitted to the Secretary of State before we are granted permission to open Armfield Academy. We have now submitted our draft report to DfE and once this is accepted we will place it onto our website.

We held a number of events to share our plans with the local community, including the following groups:

- Local Residents
- Prospective Parents
- Other local Schools
- Local Councillors and MPs
- The Local Authority
- Sports Clubs and Associations
- Local businesses
- Fylde Coast Academy Trust sponsors and directors
- Teachers' Unions and Unison

At our public events in The Burlington pub, Lytham Road and in our website survey, **over 1,000 people attended and over 500 responded to our questionnaire**. We will publish these results on the website once we have acceptance of our report.

Our Executive Principal, Chris Lickiss has now submitted our Education Plan to the DfE. Once this has been accepted, it will also be placed on our website www.armfieldacademy.co.uk and will contain our curriculum plans and details about how this all-through academy will be organized.

Site Maintenance

Our consultants, Cushman and Wakefield are continuing to work closely with us to ensure that the existing site at Arnold Avenue is as secure and well-maintained as possible prior to construction work beginning. We recognize that this is an issue that affects local residents and we have already responded to neighbours' concerns. Prior to the start of the construction process, there will be ongoing work on-site to assess the ground prior to foundations being laid and to look at existing utilities and services. We anticipate that - if and when plans are agreed - full construction work will begin in Autumn 2017.