

March
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Estates Review

Latest Developments & Updates



Creating a brighter future for
our young people





Building bright futures at Bright Futures

Welcome to the first issue of our Estates brochure which highlights a number of recently completed and current development works, with a value of just over £16m, across Bright Futures Educational Trust.

One of our main aims in Estates is to create better environments for children, young people, colleagues and the wider school communities; essentially, creating a brighter future. We hope that this is evident from the benefits presented below via the various works undertaken and ongoing across our Trust:

- Ensuring our schools are safe and meet the standards expected now and, in the future
- Providing unique learning environments
- Enhancing the quality of physical education provisions enabling children to focus on their physical and mental health and general wellbeing
- Building relationships with families and local communities



Front cover steelwork image courtesy of Bowker Sadler Architecture



Funding for some of our larger-scale projects is often via schools submitting successful grant applications which we can then match or part fund to make up the balance of the full contracted costs.

As a Trust, working at scale and making savings means that we have capacity for investment in smaller scale planned or urgent improvement works, as detailed in the Future-Proofing section of this brochure.

Edward Vitalis
Chief Operating Officer



New sports hall and gym conversion unveiled at AGGS



Altrincham Grammar
School for Girls

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Altrincham Grammar School for Girls was successful in submitting an innovative bid to the Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF). They explored a number of options with Bowker Sadler Architecture to find creative solutions to the accommodation pressures across the school site. Following careful consideration of the school's needs, planning constraints and value for money an exciting project developed that led to the provision of a new sports hall and classroom block on the Devisdale site as well as further improvements to other parts of the site.

Opened at the end of 2021, this new multimillion pound development accommodates:

- Four general teaching classrooms
- A new four-court sports hall
- An administration office
- Storage, WC, changing and shower facilities



Courtesy of Bowker Sadler Architecture

Close consultation with Trafford Council's Planning Department, Highways, Sport England and the local community ensured that the new sports hall was sympathetic to the Devisdale Conservation Area and neighbouring properties. Much thought was also given to the landscaping around the new building to ensure that it enhances the natural open space and increases the estate biodiversity. A 'fabric first' approach to sustainable design was also adopted to maximise value for money, for example, using LED luminaires with PIR sensors, non-concussive taps, and low water usage flush cisterns to reduce energy and water consumption.



The further repurposing works in what was once an undersized gym now accommodates four classrooms and enabled the demolition of some temporary facilities on the estate, again addressing the pressures to deliver the full curriculum.

The completed scheme provides much needed additional space to support the aims of the original funding bid. It has provided specialist facilities to enable the delivery of an excellent PE curriculum within a contemporary building and high quality learning environments whilst also enabling the school to carry out much needed improvements to general classroom accommodation.



"Having the new facilities has meant we no longer have to go outside in all weathers or even worse have to go to a classroom. We can now continue with our PE lessons regardless of the weather and not miss out on any valuable learning time. I have really enjoyed learning a new range of activities within the new facilities such as volleyball and badminton. The investment for the sports hall was really good and I can't wait to make many more memories." **Bella - AGGS Year 9**

Lime Tree benefits from school hall upgrade



**Lime Tree
Primary Academy**
BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Working with Lime Tree Primary Academy, AHR Building Consultancy prepared a successful Condition Improvement Fund bid for the removal and replacement of the existing floor in the school hall. These works were essential to ensure the suitability of the flooring and to meet health and safety requirements in the future, given the age and condition of the existing surface.



Head of School at Lime Tree, Clare Larkin, enthused: *"The immersive space raises the bar in terms of awe and wonder for the children, the clarity and size of the images are inspirational and breathtaking."*

The brief was expanded for additional works including removal of the existing stage, creation of a new storage area, new lighting, suspended ceiling and wall finishes, new audio-visual systems and replacement doors.

AHR developed several design options, drawings and budget costs to reach a solution to meet the long-term vision for Lime Tree. The end result is a hall which is usable, safe and provides the school with a unique environment in which to teach and learn, including a high-tech 4D immersive space. The project was completed in late 2021.

Innovative SEND resource provision opened at Marton



**Marton Primary
Academy and Nursery**
BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Marton Primary Academy and Nursery collaborated with Blackpool Children's Services to complete the development of a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) resource provision. The final development includes High Needs provision for nursery and primary aged children with autistic spectrum condition and/or moderate learning difficulties (MLD) and enables these children to attend the school.



Frankie, from Marple Class in the Marton Suite, said: *"I love Marton. The best part of school is making new friends. The ball pool in the sensory room is my favourite attraction. My teacher helps me to calm down if I am upset or angry."*

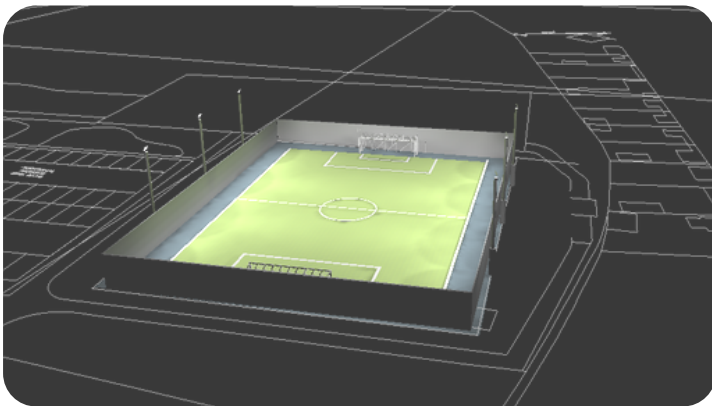
Some students who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) to meet their special needs require a higher level of specialist support than can be provided in a mainstream setting. However, their needs are not so complex that they require a place at a special school. This is where Marton comes in, having opened the new 32-place additionally resourced provision in September 2021.



What's next?

MUGA pitch set to make a difference at Rushbrook

Last year, Rushbrook Primary Academy benefited from the provision of two new canopies to the infant and junior classrooms, and refurbishment of the Nursery and rear play areas. In January, works to install a state-of-the-art multi-use games area (MUGA) began in the school playing field, with Black Cat Consultancy leading the project. This installation will enable children to participate in a range of sports, which form a major part of the PE and PSHE curriculum as well as extra-curricular activities, all-year-round. So, from the children at breakfast club to those participating in competitive sports after school, and everything in between, this is going to bring huge benefits to Rushbrook.



Importantly, having access to this facility will enable children to regain their focus on both their physical and mental health, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic. The same will apply to the Rushbrook community including local partners and stakeholders who will use the facility e.g. parents and carers will be able to participate in the Daily Mile with their children.

The site is fully accessible including for wheelchair users too which makes the facility more inclusive. Team Rushbrook are counting down to the summer when the pitch is expected to be ready.



**Rushbrook
Primary Academy**

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST



*"We can't wait for our new pitch so we can play sport and go outside for PE all of the time. It's so exciting to have something new just for us, we are very lucky." - **Year 3 student***

GEV goes BIG focusing on SEN and STEM

Gorton Education Village opened in September 2008 as the co-location for Cedar Mount Academy and Melland High School. Due to its outstanding reputation, Manchester Local Authority sought an increase in the SEND student numbers at Melland by 2023 and since the school is at capacity, the GEV site needs to be expanded. The development at GEV will also enable Cedar Mount to secure a new teaching and administration block for the provision of Design Technology & Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).



Bowker Sadler Architecture carried out a feasibility study to develop the design brief with Melland and Cedar Mount to establish the best position for the new extension. There were many considerations including the current challenge for students accessing learning spaces as both schools share corridors and access points. The team also looked at effects on recreation and parking and the need to ensure minimal disruption for the schools.

Upon completion, the development will consist of a two-storey classroom block to the northeast corner of the existing school building together with car park amendments to meet the increased need for spaces. Re-alignment of the school drop-off area facilitates the extension footprint. Links between the north and central wings will be enabled. A large lift within the new build will negate the need for any wheelchair users to travel across the school and access the existing lifts to get to the upper floors.

The four ground floor teaching spaces in the extension are for the use of complex needs' students and the extension will provide a new entrance lobby that serves only Melland so that these students have their own dedicated entrance. The ground floor will also accommodate the nurse's room and the classrooms on the western side will benefit from direct access to the external courtyard. The first floor will be almost a mirror of the ground floor except for a Living Skills teaching space where students can develop their domestic abilities. There will also be meeting/breakout rooms, dedicated calm, quiet spaces for retreat as well as dedicated storage and hygiene rooms.



Melland High School

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST



Cedar Mount Academy

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The scheme has a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM) Excellent target and will incorporate many sustainable design features e.g. a thermally massive roof, sustainable materials, low air permeability, good daylighting, hybrid ventilation units linked to CO2 sensors, heat recovery devices, an all-electric building solution that capitalises on grid decarbonization and PIR LED lighting, to name but a few.

We look forward to providing an update on how works are progressing in our next issue.



Melland High School's Principal, Sue Warner, commented: "The expansion of Melland High will enable the school to provide exciting, innovative and aspirational learning opportunities to an increased number of students who experience a wide range of SEND. The whole school community is looking forward to the exciting journey ahead!"



Student Leaders at Melland have also expressed their thoughts on the new development:

"I'm so excited that we will see it being built. We can learn about how schools are made."

"We're looking forward to having lots more students and teachers. I hope we can interview the new teachers!"

"I can't lie, it's all very exciting!"



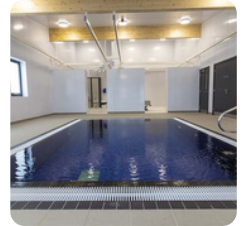
Spotlight on our SEND Provision

Across Bright Futures we have a vast array of resources and provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Here we take a closer look at some of them:

I love The Orchards because it is... "exciting"!
- Giovanni



The Orchards Specialist School benefits from a multimillion-pound new SEND school build which opened in September 2020. Offering a bespoke learning environment, the single-storey development houses large, spacious classrooms, designed around the individual needs of the children. A host of facilities were built onsite to support the wellbeing and personalised curriculum of students, including a state-of-the-art hydrotherapy pool, a sensory room, soft-play area, immersive space and gardens.



Marton Primary Academy and Nursery offers a designated special resource facility (SERF) for children with physical disabilities. The school opened its 32-place additionally resourced provision in September 2021 to meet the needs of students and to promote inclusion. The school site is on one level and is suitable for wheelchair access, special welfare facilities are provided, and a physiotherapy room is also on site. The design takes account of the sensory environment, including the proximity of others along with visual and auditory stimulation. Each class base has its own secure outdoor play and learning area too.

Melland High School, a SEND secondary school, is also designated as a National Support School and is a national college for SEND cognition and learning, as well as the strategic lead for SEND across the Trust. With the school at capacity, the new development detailed earlier in this brochure will not only enhance the current facilities by linking existing wings, providing a new large lift to ensure all students can access both floors and a new entrance lobby which only Melland students can access but it will also provide additional learning spaces to accommodate new students from across Manchester Local Authority.



At **Lime Tree Primary Academy** there is a huge focus on SEN in terms of class delivery, teaching assistant support and training which enables this mainstream school to deliver very bespoke interventions. In keeping with its inclusive ethos, the recent works to create a high-tech 4D immersive space provide a new inclusive, collaborative and unique learning environment.

CEO at Bright Futures Educational Trust, John Stephens, said: "We have a long-standing and successful commitment to high-quality inclusive education for all pupils. Our vision is for children and young people to enjoy and succeed in their learning by accessing the most inclusive environments possible – and be supported to participate fully in the life of their schools and local communities. Our ethos after all, is the best for everyone, the best from everyone."



Future-proofing

At Bright Futures we care about the future and during the past two years a number of planned preventative maintenance (PPM) repair works, surveys and repair works and school condition allocation (SCA) projects have been completed at many of our schools to bring the buildings up to current standards. These projects may not initially seem as appealing as some of our other estates work, but they are vital for future-proofing our school buildings and facilities.

Black Cat worked in partnership with ECS consultants to coordinate site inspections and surveys and to both collate and administer the programme of works, which have included everything from roofing replacements and window repairs to ventilation alterations and the installation of LED lighting. Play area refurbishments and landscaping have been particularly popular!



Our commitment to decarbonisation

You may be aware of the recently published government Decarbonisation Strategy. We will now be looking to the strategy to see how it can be weaved into our Estates Strategy over the next five years.



In the next issue...

In our next issue, you can find out more about the exciting developments at Acre Hall and Barton Clough.



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for our young people**