



CITY *of* BRISTOL
COLLEGE

News Release – 29 June 2010

COLLEGE RECEIVES KEYS TO NEW SKILLS ACADEMY

City of Bristol College's new centre, South Bristol Skills Academy, reached another important milestone today when the keys for the building were handed to the College.

The College received the keys from main contractor Cowlin after construction work at the Skills Academy in Hengrove Park was successfully completed earlier this month.

College staff are now making final preparations inside the building in readiness for when the doors open to students this September.

South Bristol Skills Academy will provide a state-of-the-art learning and working environment for City of Bristol College students and staff. It is the centrepiece of a partnership between the College, Bristol City Council, local schools and the former Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to drive up education and skills in the area.

The new Skills Academy will offer a range of courses to help young people and adults gain the skills and qualifications they need for work or further learning. The Academy will deliver courses in areas including Catering, Childcare, Construction, Hairdressing and Beauty, Motor Vehicle and Motor Cycle Engineering, and Performing Arts.

Keith Elliott, Principal at City of Bristol College, commented: "South Bristol Skills Academy will provide fantastic new state-of-the-art facilities in which local people can gain the necessary skills and qualifications for work. The new centre will transform learning and educational achievement in south Bristol and we are delighted to be playing a key role in the area's regeneration. The building is creating

a real buzz in the local community and our staff are looking forward to welcoming the first students into the centre next term.”

Malcolm McDonald, Associate Director at Capita Symonds, said: “The building’s innovative design reflects the innovation that will happen inside, as the College offers students at this centre an exciting new way of learning. The Skills Academy is a shining example of quality, innovation and partnership at its best and we are very pleased to have managed this project for the College.”

Jamie Harwood, Project Manager for Cowlin, commented: “It has been very rewarding for everyone to see this iconic building come to life. We are extremely pleased to be able to hand over to the College on time and to budget so that students can begin learning in a new and inspiring environment in September.”

E N D S

Notes to editors:

Image attached – From left to right - and Malcolm McDonald (Associate Director, Capita Symonds), Keith Elliott (Principal, City of Bristol College), Nella Stokes (Director of Foundation Skills & Progression, City of Bristol College), Brian Cooper (Director of Resources and Project Development, City of Bristol College), Jamie Harwood (Project Manager, Cowlin).

City of Bristol College

Over the last few years, City of Bristol College has emerged as one of the region’s leading education providers. Major expansion and management restructuring has created a further and higher education college at the forefront of its field.

One of the largest further education colleges in the UK, City of Bristol College offers over 1,000 courses at all levels for both 16-19 year olds and adult learners. Currently catering for more than 30,000 students and employing over 2,300 staff, the College delivers a significant majority of the post-16 educational provision in the greater Bristol area.

For further information about City of Bristol College visit www.cityofbristol.ac.uk

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