



CITY *of* BRISTOL  
COLLEGE

## **WORK GETS UNDERWAY ON £30M SOUTH BRISTOL SKILLS ACADEMY**

Construction of the City of Bristol College's £30 million Skills Academy gets underway at Hengrove Park this week (Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008).

The academy is the centrepiece of a partnership between the college, Bristol City Council, south Bristol secondary schools and the Learning & Skills Council to drive up educational and vocational standards for all 14 to 19 year olds and adults.

The new Skills Academy will host a total of 4,000 students taking training and educational courses.

"The South Bristol Skills Academy will play the leading role in helping young people and adults in this part of the city to gain the skills and qualifications they need to progress on to higher education and employment," said Keith Elliott, Principal of the City of Bristol College. "We have been working hard with schools, community groups, government departments, regional agencies and local employers to make sure that when the academy opens in September 2010, it will offer the range of courses needed to equip local people for jobs in and around the city."

The academy will employ around 150 staff who will deliver a range of courses including construction; health and social care; leisure, hair and beauty; hospitality and catering; motor vehicle, motor cycle and engineering; and information technology.

Cllr Helen Holland, Leader of Bristol City Council, said: The regeneration of Hengrove Park will transform South Bristol, bringing first class services and facilities to many thousands of people who live and work in the area.

"The new Skills Academy in particular will make a real difference to the lives of many young people, providing them with fantastic new facilities in which to learn and gain the necessary skills and qualifications for employment. Working alongside the College and other partners, we are determined to drive up standards of achievement across Bristol, but especially in neighbourhoods suffering disadvantage."

Neil Sherreard, Cowlin's divisional managing director for the south west, said: "The Skills Academy is a huge step forward for the regeneration of south Bristol and is an excellent example of innovative design. We hope that the students, staff and the local community will get as much out of the new building as we've put into it."

The four storey, 'iconic' building forms the gateway to the Hengrove Park regeneration project and has been designed to compliment the new Hartcliffe Community Campus and is due to be completed in June 2010.