



Leadbitter firmly supports the aims of the Considerate Constructors Scheme. All of our sites are registered with the Scheme, and regular visits from the Considerate Constructors monitor will help us to ensure that we continue to improve our performance.

Site Safety

Leadbitter continues to take every precaution to keep you and your family safe throughout the construction process.

Building sites are dangerous places and each year people are injured and killed on building sites!

Please help us to keep you and your children safe by ensuring no one attempts to enter any construction site, especially during the holiday period.



Christmas site closure reminder



Site Closes: Tuesday 24th December 1pm

Site Opens: Thursday 2nd January 2014 8am

Full time security will be present on site during these times

Keeping You Informed

We understand you will want to know what is happening in your area. The site team are available to answer any queries or concerns you may have and are only too pleased to hear from you.

Contact details:

Senior Project Managers: Aeron Thomas & Mike Baynham,
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Mike Little



Julie Timothy

Newsletters & Community Open Days

We will continue to send you regular newsletters providing progress information, community engagement activities and planned next stages.

Community Open Days

Our Community Open Days will be held at our project offices off Sully Road **2pm - 4pm** and **5.30pm - 6.30pm** on the following dates:

Wednesday 15th January	Wednesday 23rd April
Wednesday 19th February	Wednesday 21st May
Wednesday 19th March	Wednesday 18th June

These dates are opportunities for you to meet our project team and discuss any queries you may have over a cup of tea or coffee.



Newsletters are available in alternative paper and electronically formats. Please speak to your Community Coordinator for further details.



Penarth Learning Community

December 2013

Leadbitter

A Bouygues UK company

Working in Partnership with



AECOM

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Christmas Site Closure Dates

The site will close at 1pm on Tuesday 24th December and will open at 8am on Thursday 2nd January 2014.

Please note, full time security will be on site throughout this period



Christmas is almost upon us and we sincerely hope that those who have some time off have an enjoyable break.

We have been working hard to ensure maximum investment in your local community and are very proud of our results. Here are some of our highlights:

Local Employment and Training

70% of all operatives who have worked on this project to date live within a 25 mile radius.

330 people working on this project were either previously unemployed or their former contract had ceased.

67 people have received Readiness to Work training from our partner, Working Links.

Local Investment

More than **£20,000,000** has been spent with companies and suppliers within a 25 mile radius of this project - this equals more than **80%** of the total project spend to date.

Education Engagement

To date, we have worked with over **7,000** young people through various activities including site visits, lesson delivery, assemblies, careers fairs and more.

Community Engagement

We continue to work hard to minimise disruption for our neighbours and thank you for your continued patience and goodwill.

On behalf of the Penarth Learning Community project team, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.

Your Senior Project Managers are Aeron Thomas and Mike Baynham (pictured right).

Aeron and Mike are in control of all activities on site.



Standard site working hours are:

Monday-Thursday: 7am-7pm

Friday: 7am-7pm

Saturday: 7am-2pm



Roofing to Ysgol Y Deri is now complete.



The dining hall at St. Cyres is a large, open space. Services can be seen installed above.



The main entrance to Ysgol y Deri. The wood panelling is where the glazed artwork will be positioned.



Roof tiles on the Residential Respite Centre are now complete.

School Construction Ambassadors



Our Ambassadors were given workshops recently in readiness to deliver Progress Assemblies to their year groups. They worked very well together and produced some impressive presentations!



Ysgol Y Deri Ambassadors showed their parents around the building recently and were very proud to be able to explain the amazing facilities available when complete.

Following this visit we received a report from Harry Stuckey's mum. There was so much great information contained in her report that we decided to print the whole thing! You can read what she has to say on page 3.



Lewis Gasson, one of our Ysgol Erw'r Delyn Ambassadors spent a day at the offices of HLM Architects who designed Penarth Learning Community. Lewis was shown how the design was developed and met several members of the team responsible.

My son Harry has been a Construction Ambassador for the school since the new build began. Because of this, I was invited to visit the new school site with him, for a tour and an update on progress. Needless to say, I jumped at the chance!

We visited the site with Iwan, the second Maes Dyfan Construction Ambassador, HLTA Stuart, two ambassadors from Ash Grove, two other parents, an LSA from Ash Grove, Chris Britten, Ysgol Y Deri head teacher and Mike Little from the construction company. We were all kitted out in safety gear and the tour began.

You can't miss the fact that the school is huge, especially compared to Ysgol Maes Dyfan as it is now. My son Harry is in 6th form, but it occurred to me that this could be a little worrying for parents with younger children. However, I can truly say, don't worry! One of the main things I learned from this tour is that Mr Britten, and the others who designed the school, have tried to think of everything, and safety and security are obviously high on their agenda. Plus, what the children gain from the new technology and design will far outweigh any issues with settling in. Ysgol Y Deri is going to be amazing!

The school is divided into three areas, Foundation, KS3 and 4, and 6th form. The classrooms have lots of space and the corridors are extra wide. Mr Britten emphasised how keen he is to use the corridors as extra learning areas, complete with furniture and equipment.

The school hall has trampolines fitted into the floor. Apparently the floor will fold back and the trampolines will rise from a storage area underneath. Ysgol Y Deri is the first school in the whole of the UK to have this facility. The planners had to go to Denmark to find it! A nice touch (possibly more based on the needs of children at Ash Grove, but always useful) is that there have been viewing areas built at the top of the hall - so if your child doesn't want you to see a Christmas performance, you can anyway, and they'll never know you were there.

There is a sensory room where pictures can be projected on to all four walls, so the whole room can become a different world. It can be made exciting or calming at the touch of a button. The possibilities are endless! The same technology is available in the therapy pool.

Mr Britten is very keen for the school to be open to parents, and to be seen as belonging to us and our children. Most of the teaching staff will share office space and he has decided he doesn't need an office at all, they would all prefer the space to be used for benefit of the pupils. There is so much space in the school that he wants meetings to be held in any comfortable area when a closed door isn't needed, and these comfortable areas are everywhere! There will be a cafe at the school, run by the pupils, who will be able to learn the skills of the workplace and train as baristas! There is an area for parents with tea and coffee facilities, where parents are welcome any time of day. Personally I rarely see other parents now, so to have a place to meet up and chat on the school site will be invaluable.

My son is now in 6th form and I was very impressed by the facilities for older pupils. There will be a fully kitted out flat for developing life skills, plus a normal teaching kitchen and an industrial kitchen, linked to the cafe. The 6th form area is separate from the other pupil areas, on the first floor with the teachers' areas. They will have their own common room, with tea and coffee making facilities, a sink and a fridge. A lovely touch is that the school connects to St Cyres 6th form area, and both sets of pupils can use each others' common rooms and cafes, encouraging mixing and friendships between our children and those in mainstream school. I really like that part.

I mustn't forget that each school offers staff with different skills, so pupils can join classes to suit their needs and interests. On a personal note, I am hoping that my son can do a GCSE in Science, and with St Cyres and Ash Grove previously offering GCSEs, it should be possible for all our children to study to their highest ability.

There was so much information that I can only touch on some of the parts that particularly stand out. What I can say is that Mr Britten and the planners have really tried to think of everything, from making the school accessible for all, with wide entrances, lifts and hoists, to bringing in the best technology; from ensuring the best facilities for our children's development of life skills to making sure that parents know they are welcome at any time -and so much more! We all know the staff at Ysgol Maes Dyfan are committed, kind and welcoming, so to combine that with the facilities of the new building and the progressive and open attitude of Mr Britten, will be amazing for our children. Of course there may be hiccups settling in, and we have to allow for parents, pupils and staff of all the schools to get used to such big changes, but I have no doubt everything will be sorted out satisfactorily if we all approach it with a positive attitude. I am so happy that Harry will get to be part of this before he goes on his way to college in a year or two, and for those of you with younger children, they have many years of exciting learning to come!

Gobsmacking!