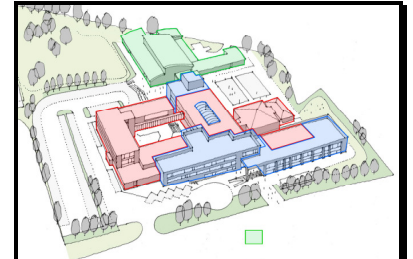


## Next three Secondary Schools are under development...



Work is now in full swing to develop the transformational solutions for the next three Secondary Schools in the BSF programme.

Sandwell Futures are extremely grateful for the time, effort, comments and support being provided by the Head teachers and their colleagues at Alexandra High School and Batmans Hill Young Mothers Unit, (which will become the Tipton Learning Campus), Wodensborough CTC and Wodens Rise KS3 PRU (which will become the Wednesbury Learning Campus) and Oldbury College of Sport, in the demanding iterative process.

The process has encompassed a joint, detailed analysis of the individual school educational visions in relation to the overall vision of the Authority, and a gradual evolution of design and ICT solutions that will deliver the agreed

visions. Surveys of the existing schools have, and are, being carried out to inform the solutions to result in optimum, workable and transformational outcomes.

Over the next few weeks, these outline solutions will be formally submitted to the Authority as required by the BSF procedures, for them to assess whether they satisfy the strict criteria that are set out, following which they will be worked up into detailed designs and ICT solutions. They will then again be formally submitted to the Authority during the summer for final approval following which the contracts can be finalised and signed.

It is anticipated that work will commence on site at the three sites late summer.

## Work forges ahead at Rowley Regis Learning Campus - (despite the weather)...



Project Manager Johnpaul Allen has the project very well under control, with the gas main diversion, below slab drainage, Campus Road retaining wall, car-park formation, and some superstructure work all progressing to programme.

As the steel frame is erected, the shape of the infill to the front of the school is taking shape.

Being on the top of an exposed hill, the site team on the Rowley Regis Learning Campus felt the full of the effects of the snow in early January, but despite that, the work continues with some the structure beginning to emerge from the ground.





## .....and at Smethwick Learning Campus

Now that the decant village is fully operational and occupied by the school, work is progressing at Smethwick Learning Campus on a number of fronts.

Project Manager Noel Corbally is coordinating his team in commencing the strip out in the Design Technology and North Block to prepare for the remodelling which is scheduled to take place there, and is also progressing with the groundworks for the new Sports, Science and Pavilion which will provide the stunning new welcoming entrance to the school.



## Sandwell Futures' ICT Partner...

...Agilisys is the UK's most innovative IT services and outsourcing provider, delivering success through innovation and working with clients to transform services that make a difference to millions of people across the UK. Working for both the public and private sector, Agilisys have earned a strong reputation for its expertise within, Education, Healthcare, Local Government, Travel and Tourism and Financial Services, supporting clients through a network of offices and centres of excellence throughout the UK, employing over 1,200 people.

Agilisys is the ICT partner in the Sandwell BSF partnership, Agilisys contracted to provide the ICT hardware, software, infrastructure and managed services to the schools in the scheme. They are currently working with Sandwell Futures to finalise detailed ICT solutions for the schools currently under construction - the **Rowley Regis Learning Campus** (St. Michaels C of E School, The Westminster School and Whiteheath PRU) and the **Smethwick Learning Campus** (Holly Lodge School and Ruskin House PRU). The transformational ICT ideas are also being developed for the next three schools noted in the above article, which due to commence on site later this year.

**The Agilisys Team** is led by Programme Manager, Phil Coldicott and comprises two Project Managers, Steven Hary and Rob Alcock who are based in Oldbury. This delivery team is supported by Regional Director, Nigel Muirhead; HR Manager, Fiona Phillip; H&S Officer, Elaine Spencer; and Agilisys' Procurement Director, Gordon McPhail.

**What has been done so far?** Agilisys have developed their Programme plans, established a Governance regime, and worked with Sandwell Futures and LEP partners Cambridge Education, to establish the transformational framework under which ICT will be delivered. Early works have been focussed on:

- **School and ICT design workshops** - regular meetings with the Rowley Regis and Smethwick school representatives in conjunction with the contractors, furniture (FFE) providers and M&E contractors to establish site, faculty and room layouts for furniture and ICT equipment. These workshops are now almost complete and on plan.
- **Establishing contacts** - Agilisys are meeting regularly with the school staff along with their trade Union representatives to ensure that they are involved and embrace in the innovation as it emerges from the transformation. In addition Agilisys are registered on Sandwell's online Business network: [www.finditinsandwell.co.uk](http://www.finditinsandwell.co.uk) and will provide opportunities for local organisations to contribute to their Supply Chain in due course.
- **Establishing our Technology partners** - Agilisys are working with leading suppliers to develop equipment and service requirements that will reflect recently released technologies, an exercise that will continue throughout the programme, particularly with regard to User devices and Individual Learning Devices.

**What's next?** - The next stage of the programme is called **Revised Baseline Specification** and involves working even more closely with the 3 schools and 2 PRU's at Rowley Regis and Smethwick to refine the ICT requirements, auditing current provisions, and ensuring that where appropriate, established services are incorporated into the forward plan. This will take at least 2 school terms to complete but it is crucial to ensure that the solutions are designed to satisfy each individual school's needs.

## Shireland Hall Primary School



Sandwell Futures team are joining with Sandwell Metropolitan Borough's own Project Management and design teams to work together to develop the completely new Shireland Hall Primary School.

This is a challenging site, in that the desire is to minimise the amount of decant accommodation necessary whilst allowing the new school to be built on a steeply sloping and already tight site.

The SMBC design team have proposed for discussion an initial 'footprint' for the new school, and this is now undergoing a feasibility review. It is anticipated that work will be able to commence on constructing the new school later in the year.

## Art in our schools

As part of the BSF programme, Sandwell Futures have introduced an initiative to support and encourage school teaching staff and pupils to consider how art can play a distinctive part in the identity of their particular school.

Using Messrs Cantoo as facilitators, Sandwell Futures are establishing Art Strategy Groups within each of the schools and PRU's at the Rowley Regis Learning Campus and Smethwick Learning Campus to work jointly with the designers and contractors to introduce art based elements into the fabric of their schools. More information can be found at [http://www.cantoo.net/cantoo/news/Entries/2010/1/22\\_Sandwell\\_BSF\\_Rowley\\_campus.html](http://www.cantoo.net/cantoo/news/Entries/2010/1/22_Sandwell_BSF_Rowley_campus.html) .

Over the next 3-4 months, the pupils, under the guidance of Cantoo, will be designing pieces of art to be incorporated within the schools and PRU's. They will also be considering more significant collaborative pieces for the shared 'work and recreational' areas potentially calling upon the further support of local artists for this.

The Groups are being encouraged to develop their proposals, with specific reference to local resources and the rich wealth of industrial heritage of the region.

The Art Strategy Groups will be working towards making a presentation of their completed designs and proposals before the summer holidays for consideration to allow fabrication and installation to suit the progress of the new construction.

