

NEWS RELEASE



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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FOUNDRY COLLEGE IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE

Improvements to Foundry College in Wokingham have been completed. More space has been created at the school in Budes Gardens thanks to the £1.7million project, with work completed to modify buildings, relocate the temporary classrooms and landscape around the school site.

The work includes a new school hall, outdoor workshop, gym and dedicated classrooms for English, maths, cooking and science. Sensory rooms and dedicated spaces have been created, as well as additional parking, CCTV and secure access pedestrian and vehicle gates.

Foundry College was created in September 2011, and it provides education and support to pupils who have been permanently excluded or are at risk of permanent exclusion, as well as those with medical needs who cannot attend school regularly. It has 47 students who are educated there full time.

It also provides a range of outreach services to support pupils from Wokingham's mainstream schools who have social, emotional and mental health issues, special educational needs and disabilities, poor attendance and those benefiting from alternative provision.

The college now has a separate block accommodating workrooms and counselling offices, as well as new parking arrangements for staff and an extended outdoor play space. A courtyard has been created at the centre of the college building as well as a secure, separate entry point just for use by the school.

Cllr UllaKarin Clark, executive member for children's services, said: "It's fantastic to see this project completed and additional space created to provide what the students need. It's vital we provide the facilities to support education of all young people in our borough. These improvements will benefit those who attend Foundry College full-time as well as children from other schools who access its outreach services."

Previously, the college was part of the Brambles Neighbourhood Centre and the college lacked internal space, which impacted on pupil's learning. Work began on the project last year, with planning permission granted in mid-2019. Construction was completed earlier this month (November).

Headteacher Jay Blundell added: "On behalf of the management committee, staff and students of Foundry College, I would like to sincerely thank all those at Wokingham Borough Council for their commitment to the vital work we do at Foundry College with some of the borough's most vulnerable young people and for investing in us and making this possible. These refreshed and developed facilities have enabled us to broaden our curriculum offer to better meet the needs of all of our students and further improve their life chances."

- ENDS -

Further information:

1. More from Cllr UllaKarin Clark, executive member for children's services, via ullakarin.clark@wokingham.gov.uk
2. Alternatively, contact the council's communications, engagement and marketing team via CEM@wokingham.gov.uk
3. To find out more from Foundry College, visit <https://foundry.wokingham.sch.uk/about-foundry-college/>