



NEWS RELEASE

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GB Building Solutions awarded £14million all girls school

GB Building Solutions has been awarded a £14million contract to build a new teaching block incorporating a sixth form facility for Manchester all-girls' school Whalley Range High School, specialising in business, enterprise and sport for 11-18 year olds.

The contract was awarded by Manchester City Council as part of its framework, known as Framework One, on which GB was included at the beginning of last year, following existing work for Manchester City Council over 3.5 years and improving more than 500 residential properties on what was known as its Housing Investment Framework.

Whalley Range is an all girls community school; both the school and the existing sixth form are larger than average.

The new build block amalgamates the temporary classrooms, sixth form, technology and art facilities into a single new integrated unit. The new school block will provide purpose built, multifunctional spaces which will allow the school to continue its curriculum development. Particular care has been taken to ensure that the sixth form area is an inspirational learning environment that pupils will be able to take ownership of.

The school is part of the national Building Schools for the Future (BSF) scheme, which is the biggest ever school building investment programme, and aims to rebuild or refurbish every secondary school in England.

In Manchester there is a combined BSF and Academies programme with a £500m capital investment to rebuild or refurbish 33 secondary schools, seven of which will be specialist academies

The new building will include transformational learning spaces and an improvement to the student entrance; it will also incorporate social spaces both internally and externally. There will also be a new dining facility and the existing kitchen will be replaced with a new, state of



the art kitchen facility and extended dining space. In addition, an external 'café' area will be created through the provision of an external food kiosk, located under a clear ETFE canopy.

GB will also extensively upgrade the school grounds to improve the quality of the school's external social spaces. GB will create a covered courtyard area that is flexible enough to act as external dining as well as social and performance space.

Martin Smout, chairman and chief executive of GB Building Solutions, says: "The new sixth form at Whalley Range will transform the learning experience for the students and should help the school to get even higher grades that they are aiming for."

Councillor Sheila Newman, Executive Member for Children's Service's at Manchester City Council, says: "The refurbishment work at Whalley Range High School is part of a wider programme of improvements across all of the city's high schools that represents a step change in thinking to ensure real transformational learning. All schools are taking a good look at the way in which children are taught and how they learn to ensure that they are receiving a fit for the future 21st century education in brand new 21st century buildings".

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Notes for Editors

GB Building Solutions is a solutions-focused construction company which believes in adding value and delivering on the promises it makes to its customers.

GB Building Solutions has five offices based throughout England and undertakes a range of new build and refurbishment projects in both the public and private sectors. It specialises in five sectors:

- ❖ Accommodation
- ❖ Commercial
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Hotels and leisure
- ❖ Healthcare



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