

# update



An update on the Landau Forte Academy, Tamworth



Staffordshire  
County Council

Autumn 2009

## Welcome to our first newsletter on the Landau Forte Academy, Tamworth



Many of you will know that we have been consulting over the past few months about the Landau Forte Academy, Tamworth. It has been a real pleasure to meet such a large number of you who will be part of our Academy; we are delighted that the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families agreed that the Academy should go ahead. Through the public meetings and the feedback consultation forms we have heard from students, parents, teachers and support staff and many others in the wider community. We shall reflect on everything as we look forward to working with you in the months ahead to ensure the Academy is set for success.

As an experienced Headteacher and Principal who has spent the last 30 years in state funded secondary education, I know that parents want a school with drive and ambition where children are challenged, enjoy their education and are well cared for; one that turns out well educated, responsible young people with a desire and determination to succeed in their lives. Our intention is to develop with you a school the whole community can be proud of. Local families will benefit from:

- An academy set up and run by the Landau Forte Charitable Trust which has proven experience and a popular and trusted way of running a secondary school including Post 16 education for almost 20 years.
- A school that sets high expectations with a brand new Sixth Form giving excellent opportunities to young people both from within the 11–16 Academy and the other Tamworth secondary schools.
- New multi-million pound buildings which match your aspirations where children can succeed whilst enjoying their learning and where staff will be able to teach effectively.

I hope that you find this newsletter both interesting and informative. We will keep in touch over the coming months, but if there is anything else that you would like to know please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With best wishes,

Mr. Stephen Whiteley

Chief Executive, Landau Forte Charitable Trust



## Academy Fact-file

- **Sponsored by Landau Forte Charitable Trust**, a registered charity experienced in education.
- **Scheduled to open in September 2010** in the Woodhouse buildings.
- **960 places** in Years 7–11 which will be free-of-charge and open to students of all abilities.
- At age 11 the same admissions policy and local catchment area as currently used at Woodhouse and as approved by Staffordshire County Council – **a local school for local families.**
- **From 2011 there will be 860 Post 16 places** which will be free-of-charge – the Academy will provide mainly Level 3 provision (A Level equivalent), for entry Level 3 courses students will normally need a minimum of 5A\* – C grades or equivalent at GCSE.
- **From September 2011 there will be two inspirational new Academy buildings (11–16)** at the Woodhouse Business & Enterprise College with the new Post 16 Centre for the whole of Tamworth located on part of the current Queen Elizabeth Mercian School site.
- The Academy will build a success culture that promotes a **'can do' attitude.**
- There will be **high ambition for students** where everyone will be expected to have a desire and commitment to learn and improve.
- The curriculum will **bring together the worlds of education, business and industry** providing extensive high quality opportunities to meet individual needs, aspirations and aptitudes.
- There will be a **strong emphasis on the personal development of young people growing their confidence and self esteem**, ensuring their potential is released and their abilities and talents are given the opportunity to flourish including within the fields of sport, the performing and visual arts and enterprise.

# Brand New Buildings: Integrated, Stimulating & Welcoming

The Academy will benefit from two-purpose built, multi-million pound buildings. We have previous experience in building and refurbishing school buildings and have seen first hand at our Academy in Derby the many different ways in which they enhance and stimulate the experience for both students and staff.

Each phase of the Academy will be housed in an integrated building providing a stimulating and welcoming environment designed and fit for the 21st Century.

In planning for the Academy, we will encourage students and staff to put forward their ideas on the design and facilities. The architects and the Staffordshire County Council will liaise closely with local residents on all aspects of design and construction. A group of students will attend three design sessions with the renowned charity The Sorrell Foundation over the Autumn term to explore concepts of design and present ideas for the new buildings. We will provide a further update on these sessions in our next newsletter.

Students, parents and staff we have spoken to as part of our consultation for the Academy have been very enthusiastic about the prospect of new buildings. It is still early days for the Academy design; however we will continue to keep you informed as they progress. We know from our experience in Derby how well designed modern buildings make a huge contribution to the education of the young people.



**“Our academy is a confident and caring community where students are proud to belong and achieve well. Our modern well maintained buildings help to inspire every student and member of staff. We are equipped with a superb range of facilities designed to reflect the modern office, workshop, laboratory or performance environment. The use of Information Communication Technology is embedded into our approaches to student learning including computer aided design and manufacturing facilities (CAD/CAM), recording studios and theatre which also host public performances. There are areas for independent study including a well designed Library and Learning centre and an E learning centre and an excellent Restaurant enabling students and staff to eat and socialise in pleasant surroundings.”**

Stephen Whiteley, Chief Executive, Landau Forte Charitable Trust



# A Culture which Celebrates Success

Similarly to our Academy in Derby, the Landau Forte Academy, Tamworth will focus on:

- Creating a culture of success
- Building a positive climate for learning
- Establishing a love of learning as a basis for lifelong learning
- Raising student attainment and achievement
- Student's social and emotional development

The Academy will have the following essential characteristics:

1. Student learning, attainment, achievement and well-being are at the centre of everything we do
2. A 'can do' attitude
3. High aspirations and ambition for students and staff
4. Everyone expected to be determined and have the desire and commitment to continuously improve



**Martin Landau with the Deputy Leader of the County Council, Ian Parry at TORC Centre**

## Appointment of Academy Principals

We are currently in the process of recruiting two Principals for the Landau Forte Academy, Tamworth; one to run the 11–16 Academy, and one to run the Post 16 Academy. Advertisements were placed in the national press and so far we have received overwhelming interest from some outstanding candidates. If you would like to view an electronic copy of the advertisement; please see: [www.tamworthacademy.org.uk/vacancies.asp](http://www.tamworthacademy.org.uk/vacancies.asp)

Interviews will take place in the Autumn and we will give you an update in the next newsletter.

# Out & About

All Landau Forte students will have the chance to enjoy learning and to go on residential trips to all sorts of unforgettable destinations. Recently our students from Derby have taken part in:

- World Challenge Expeditions to Brazil and Malaysia
- Visited our partner schools in Shanghai and Jin Hua, China
- International Work Placement in France, Spain and Germany
- Skiing in Italy
- Music, Dance and Drama tours to Ireland and Switzerland
- Language and History visits to Normandy and Paris, France
- Visit to memorials to the Holocaust in Poland
- Tall Ships voyage around the UK and French coastline
- Language and Art visit to Barcelona, Spain
- Camping in the Derbyshire Dales

## Parents Forum Group for Woodhouse School Parents

We would warmly like to welcome the parents of Woodhouse School to attend a series of Parents Forum Group meeting to discuss practical questions about the transfer to the Academy such as future curriculum, inclusion and special educational needs, new uniform, and the transfer to the new building. We will also be running parallel groups with members of staff and students. Information and feedback from the groups will be sent out to all parents in regular newsletters.

The parent forum group meetings will be held at Woodhouse School on the following dates:

**Thursday 11th Feb 2010, 5.30pm to 7pm**

**Thursday 13th July 2010, 5.30pm to 7pm**

If you would like to attend, please send an email to Richard Payton (Senior Project Manager) at [richard.payton@echarris.com](mailto:richard.payton@echarris.com)

Please provide your name, address, email, contact no. and name and year of your child/ward at the school.



# Your Questions Answered

We hope that this section answers many of the questions you have about the Academy. We will continue to provide further information as our plans develop, but if in the meantime there is anything you would like to hear more about, please get in touch.

## Why has this Academy been proposed?

We have been invited by Staffordshire County Council and the government to consult on having a new academy in Tamworth. The academy will replace Woodhouse Business & Enterprise College and build on its strengths to develop an outstanding school. Additionally the academy will provide Post 16 Education for both Academy students and students from the other secondary schools in Tamworth who wish to study A Level type qualifications.

## What is the Landau Forte College Trust?

The Landau Forte College Trust is a registered charity with almost 20 years' experience of running schools. The two founding sponsors of Landau Forte College, from whom the College takes its name, are The Landau Charitable Foundation, a private educational and charitable trust, and Rocco Forte & Family Ltd., formerly Britain's largest hotel and catering group. Although the Forte family no longer own this group they are still major supporters of the College.

Landau Forte College Trust family of schools has the sustained support of The Landau Charitable Foundation and The Forte Family. In addition to the Trust's existing industry and business partners in Derby and the East Midlands the Trust would seek to build similar relationships with employers in Tamworth and the surrounding area. Establishing strong relationships with the world of business, industry and the wider community will provide contexts for student learning developing their understanding and insight into the expectations and challenges of the future.

## What is the Landau Forte College Trust's track record like?

Landau Forte College was purpose built and opened in 1992 as the 14th City Technology College in England. As one of the original City Technology Colleges nationally it was a founding member of the City Technology Colleges Trust which has grown into the specialist schools movement known as the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. In 2005 HM Government invited the College to change its status to an Academy. In the summer

of 2006 an agreement was reached between our Primary Sponsors the Landau Charitable Foundation and Rocco Forte Hotels Plc and from 1 September 2006 the College changed its status from a City Technology College (CTC) to an Academy. As an Academy the College will have dual specialisms of Technology and Business Enterprise.

Ofsted 2008 judged the College as "Outstanding". The Academy in Derby

- Welcomes students of all academic abilities and uses teaching and learning approaches to meet the needs of the individual
- Is popular with local families and oversubscribed, by an average of four applications for every place
- Achieves sustained high levels of attainment and achievement at GCSE and Post 16
- Encourages students to stay on for Post 16 education and progress to Higher Education. Of those who choose not to enter Higher Education most enter employment with training.

## Will the Academy definitely open?

Yes. The Funding Agreement has been signed by the Landau Forte Charitable Trust and the Secretary of State for Education, which means that we are now in 'Implementation Stage'. The Academy will open in September 2010 in the Woodhouse Buildings.

**Will my child get a place?** All children currently at Woodhouse Business and Enterprise College are guaranteed a place. All those who start at Woodhouse in Year 7 in 2009 will automatically transfer to the new Academy in September 2010.

The Academy will serve the current Woodhouse catchment area. In future years, if over subscribed for year 7 it is proposed that priority will be given to

children who are in care, children from the Woodhouse catchment area and siblings of students already in the Academy.

## Why is the Academy going to have a specialism?

The proposed Academy will give students a well-rounded education with a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy. All academies are also required to have a specialism. There would be enhanced provision for the Academy's Specialisms of Science and Business Enterprise which would be complementary to those of the 11-16 schools and 16-19 providers respectively. In our experience at Derby, the specialisms we have chosen have helped us to give our students key skills for life, such as team work, confidence and creativity. Having these skills means that students are able to do better across the curriculum.

## What will happen to students whilst the new building is being constructed?

Students will study in the existing Woodhouse Business & Enterprise College buildings whilst the new 11-16 building is constructed elsewhere on the same site and the Post 16 Centre is built on part of the Queen Elizabeth Mercian School (QEMS) Site. The Woodhouse building will be refreshed to help us to ensure that we can offer students a pleasant environment and modern curriculum whilst we wait for the new buildings to become ready.

We have previous experience of rebuilding and refurbishing school buildings whilst children are learning on the same site. We are therefore fully confident that the new buildings will be constructed with the minimum of disruption to students and staff.

## Will the Academy have a new uniform?

Yes. We will cover the cost of this for the first year for students currently at Woodhouse Business & Enterprise College.

## Get in Touch

To get in touch, please contact Richard Payton who is the project manager. You can telephone him on **0121 503 2700** or email him at **richard.payton@echarris.com**

Alternatively, you can write to Mr Stephen Whiteley, Chief Executive, Landau Forte Charitable Trust, Landau Forte College, Fox Street, Derby, DE1 2LF.

Further information about this Academy is on our website, **www.tamworthacademy.org.uk**

The Landau Forte College Trust is a registered charity. Our charity number is 701933.