**New BOHUNT School WOKINGHAM celebrates topping out ceremony**

A topping out ceremony to mark the highest point of construction has been held at the new £32.5million Bohunt School Wokingham building.

Work on the school has progressed well despite wet winter conditions and the new building at the former Arborfield Garrison site is on schedule to be finished for September 2017.

More than 100 students will join the school when it opens in September this year. Initially they will use the well-established legacy buildings, adjacent to the new school building being constructed, on the former Arborfield Garrison site.

Attention now turns to finishing off the internal features of the new school building such as the learning spaces and considerable IT infrastructure for learning designed to meet every requirement of modern teaching.

The state-of-the-art school will cater for up to 1200 pupils. Within the building there is a suite of customised STEM (science, technology, engineering and science) rooms, science labs, a drama theatre, and large light and open plan areas which will house the school’s impressive, ICT, art and learning resource centres. All this coupled with the sports facilities in the adjacent sports centre, 3G Astro-Turf and tennis and netball courts make the new school a fantastic facility for the borough’s young people.

Cllr Charlotte Haitham Taylor, executive member for children’s services, said: “The topping out ceremony is a momentous occasion in the school’s development and the start of a new era. Like many other people, I can’t wait to see it finally finished. Standing at the top of the building it was fantastic to see the outstanding design come to life.

“I’d like to thank everyone who has worked on this project – from the new headteacher Ben Godber to our contractors and the future students and their parents, who’ve all helped turn our aspirations into reality. To get where we are today required a big vision and some bravery to deliver this much needed school.

“I’m proud of the work we’ve done and it’s a credit to the hard work and commitment of everyone involved. I’d particularly like to praise the parents and future students who’ve added so much magic to the process to really make it their school.”

Headteacher Ben Godber said: “I would like to thank Wokingham Borough Council for the confidence and belief they have shown in Bohunt Education Trust, the sponsor for this new school and flagship development.

“We can’t wait to get started on bringing first class education to our students, and deliver the innovation and ‘game changing mentality’ of Bohunt’s educational values, within this stunning facility.

“There’s no doubt that the young people coming to Bohunt School Wokingham, now and in the future, will have exceptional opportunities ahead of them and all the ingredients are in place for their hopes and dreams to become a genuine reality.”

Nick Down, regional director at Dawnus, said: “Dawnus are delighted to have been given the opportunity by Wokingham Borough Council to deliver this exceptional building, and we’re confident that it will be a great place for the children of the area to learn and develop.

“The Dawnus team is completely focused on providing a high-quality building, constructed in a safe and sustainable manner, and we’re very pleased with the current rate of progress as the finished structure begins to take shape.”