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## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.3



TAKING A QUICK TOUR: JONATHAN SPENCER PICKUP, RACHEL COOKSON, SIMON HYDE, RICHARD GRIFFITHS, RUTH ROBERTS AND DAVID NIXON

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## WELCOME

John Roberts - Regional Director  
at VINCI Construction

Hello and welcome to the third edition of the King's School Newsletter. Since our last issue the new school campus is certainly taking shape, with completion of the steel work to the main campus building.

The external groundworks for the Rugby Pitches have also been completed with the cut and fill activities well underway for other key areas. The Sports Centre, which will feature a swimming pool, dance/martial arts studio and other impressive facilities,

is coming to life with the steel work commencing.

As main contractor for the project, VINCI has also contributed in supporting a number of extra-curricular activities taking place within the School, from the Family Fortunes event to the Alumni Gala Dinner. We've also held numerous site visits which have also been equally successful (pictured above).

In this issue we focus upon the design of the school, with an interesting and informative

interview with Project Architect Andrew Brown from Pick Everard. There is also another perspective from former King's School pupil and now a key member of VINCI Construction's delivery team, Sam Finch. In the interview, Sam talks about his role at VINCI and how he progressed his career in construction. As ever, we have important information relating to careers in construction and the many different available routes.

Our spotlight project in this edition for 'Somewhere else in the world...' is the Shieldhall Tunnel which is situated in Scotland.

We hope you find interest in our newsletter and, as always, welcome any feedback you may have.

John



SENIOR ENTRANCE



JUNIOR ENTRANCE



SENIOR FOYER





## INTERVIEW WITH THE KING'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT



UK

**THE MIND BEHIND THE DESIGN...****ANDREW BROWN**

VINCI'S Lauren Banks met with the Architect who designed your new school campus. Andrew Brown, Architect at Pick Everard, shares his thoughts on what inspired the design, where it all started and what you have to look forward to seeing in the finished product.

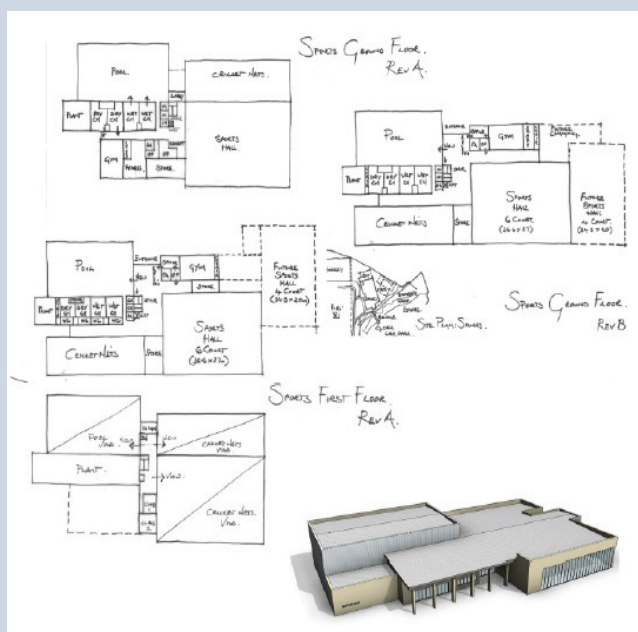
**What was your inspiration for the design of the new campus?**

Quite simply, our inspiration for the new campus was the Cheshire landscape. Our main aim with the siting of the buildings and its aesthetic appearance was to allow the landscape to dominate.

Working with Dr Simon Hyde, we reviewed precedents of other buildings which use simple facades. We aimed to minimise the detail to ensure the building wouldn't compete with the impressive rural backdrop.

The main academic building, the largest building on campus, is in an optimum position to reduce its visual impact. The tree line that surrounds the site is purposefully untouched by the outline of the building.

The footprint of the new buildings represents around 5% of the total site owned by the school. This gives the landscape the opportunity to grow and develop as the star of the show.

**What architectural features are there in the new design?**

We spent a significant amount of time researching the daylight within the building. One of the key features of the design is the utilisation of natural light. Creating the feeling of open space upon entering the building was essential. Placing the Central Library directly in front of the foyer allows those entering the main entrance to enjoy views through glazed walls to the landscape beyond.

The main entrance colonnade with a deep overhanging roof reinforces the feeling of sitting within ancient woodland with the main entrance staircase having a feature ceiling expressing the tree branches.

The main 'street' running through the building is naturally lit from high level clerestory windows, and will be automatically controlled to allow natural ventilation to the central spaces.

The teaching pods that radiate off the main street look out onto green spaces to create wonderful learning spaces and opportunities for outside learning. These were all conscious decisions regarding the design.



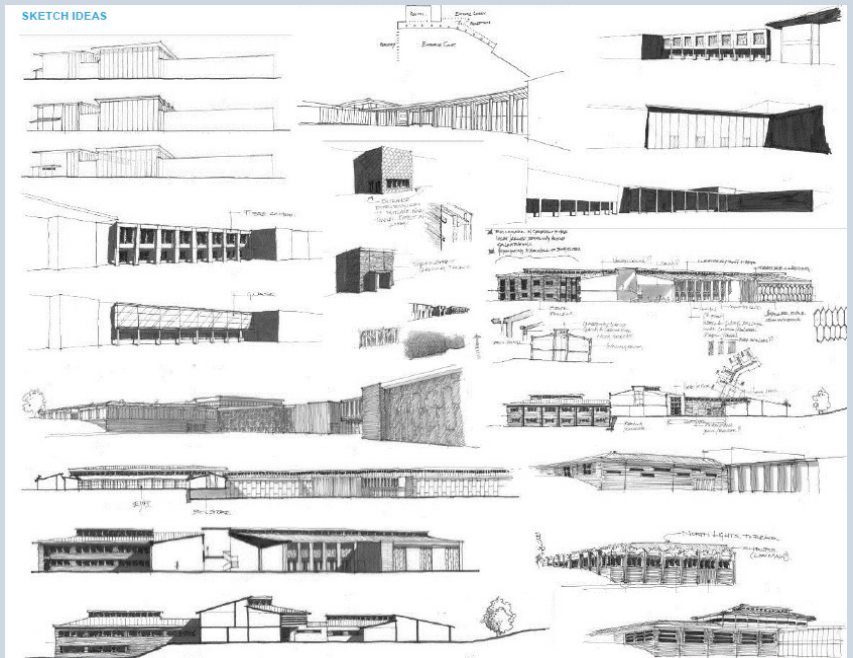


## INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW BROWN

### *What to you was the most important aspect of the design?*

The main academic building sits mid-way between two beautiful woodlands, Big Wood, which is an ancient woodland and Dumber Wood, both containing native species.

With reduced detail on the building we have used the window columns and general fenestration to express verticality in the façade. The result is one where the building can be viewed as a copse of trees adjoining Big Wood with Dumber Wood. The trees are expressed as simple lines on the façade. This will be greatly enhanced as the trees that the school plant as part of the development grow towards maturity.



### *What makes the design stand out from other schools?*

When we first visited the site in 2014, the thing that stood out most was the aesthetics of the site and the natural resources for learning, with ancient woodlands, meandering streams and open meadows on and around the site.

We felt very strongly that the buildings shouldn't compete with the surroundings. That they didn't need to shout or have gimmicks: we just needed a design to sit as quietly as possible and harmoniously within the landscape.

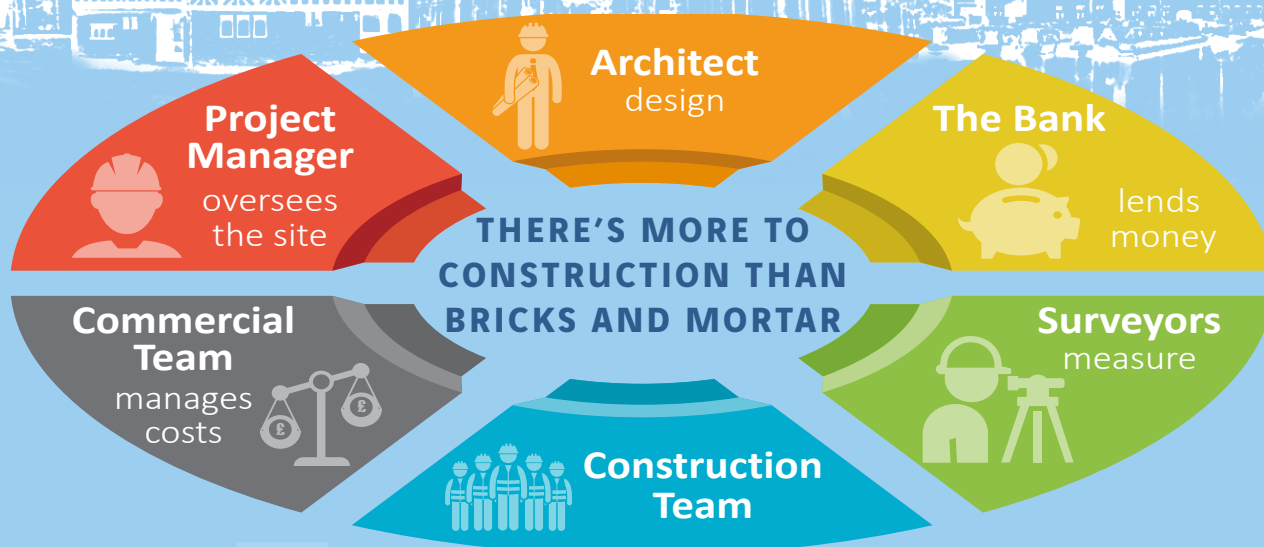
Very few schools will have access to the wonderful natural setting that The King's School will have. Our job was to provide a canvas that could be developed in the years to come. To play a small part in allowing many generations of King's pupils access to Cheshire's greatest asset, the beautiful countryside.







## IS A CAREER IN CONSTRUCTION FOR ME?



## Which route into Construction is best for me?

Below are potential routes to take if you think a career in Construction is for you. There's no right way into a job but one of these paths could be yours.

## Work Experience

There's no better way to get a feel for the job than to spend time with people who know it best. A work placement will provide you with a realistic and varied experience of our industry.

These programmes will enable you to apply your key skills such as communication, application of numeracy, information technology, team work and problem solving to a construction or facilities environment.

You will receive all the supervision and advice you need and come away with an appetite for more.



## Apprenticeships

We know that apprentices are crucial to the future of our company. They ensure we maintain the skills, experience and talent required to continue growing.

Our apprentices are employed in a range of high-quality programmes including mechanical and electrical, technical construction, quantity surveying and business and administration.

As one of our apprentices, you will work towards a level 4 or 6 qualification, attend college or university on a part-time basis, plus gain on-the-job training.



## Sponsorship

We provide sponsorship that will enable you to study at a leading UK university on a full-time basis. You will receive a financial bursary throughout your course, plus paid summer and/or industrial placements.

Our sponsored students all agree that the work placements are the most valuable element, enabling them to put the theory into practice.



## Graduates

Our scheme combines technical training with management skills to help you prosper in our team. As well as formal training, mentors help our graduates to find their feet in the world of construction and facilities.

You will be starting your career on some of the most exciting projects the industry has to offer, whilst working towards gaining chartered status to a relevant professional institute.



To find out more about the different types of careers in construction, visit: <https://www.goconstruct.org/>



## CURRENT PROGRESS

Good progress has been made since our last newsletter. In the past 3 months the campus works have progressed extremely well with the steel work to the main school building, due for completion by early May.



The concrete slabs have also been laid to the ground and upper floors with under-floor heating, with commencement of the internal masonry walls and roofing to the main building.



The Sports Centre is also progressing well with the steel frame due for completion over the next few weeks. Excavations for the pool are also about to commence. The car park for the Centre has now been constructed and surfaced.

To ensure we maintain high standards with regard to appearance, community, environment, safety and workforce wellbeing, our site is independently audited with the Considerate Constructors Scheme. We will have sweepers out to keep the roads clean!





## SAM FINCH, KING'S SCHOOL ALUMNI: VINCI'S CONSTRUCTION MANAGER



Sam Finch is our Senior Construction Manager, currently working on one of the largest shopping centre refurbishments in the UK, the Trafford Centre. As a former pupil of King's School, we spoke to him about his time at school and what attracted him to construction.

### ***What was your time like at the King's School?***

I feel that my experiences at King's really helped shape me into the person I am today. All the teachers pushed me to think outside the box when tackling problems (a skill I use on an hourly basis working within construction). They helped build my self-confidence, which is crucial when you're dealing with a wide variety of stakeholders. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at King's and made some good friends from a variety of different backgrounds who I keep in touch with to this day.

### ***What was your favourite subject whilst you were studying there and why?***

I always enjoyed Geography, learning about the world around us and the composition of the natural environment. Physics was also a great subject, where many of the experiments appealed to my practical mind and formed the foundation of my appetite for technical knowledge of how buildings and systems are put together.

### ***When did you consider a career in the Construction Industry?***

I was always interested in a career in the engineering/construction field but was unsure as to which direction to take. I had a few discussions with my form tutor, Dr Hollis, who helped me weigh up the pros and cons of different paths and the university courses on offer. It really helped steer me towards a degree in Construction Engineering Management, which was a fantastic course at Loughborough University.

### ***Which route did you take to your career now?***

My decision to apply for the Construction Engineering Management course was guided by Dr Hollis and a friend of the family who was a Construction Manager at the time explained the merits of the profession and why it was so appealing. The degree itself was industry sponsored. You couldn't get a place on the course unless you had secured sponsorship from one of the main contractors involved with the scheme. After interviewing with a few main contractors I chose VINCI Construction and have been with them ever since. First starting out as an assistant engineer involved with accurately positioning the various elements of buildings and checking quality. Moving on through the ranks to Senior Construction Manager, which involves a wide range of responsibilities from ensuring safe systems of work are in place and the site is organised and clean, to drawing up programmes, proposing design changes and coordinating the various trades we have onsite to work together with one common goal.

### ***What advice would you give to the pupils attending The King's School?***

Make the most of extra-curricular activities. King's is a great school for providing a vast array of different activities which are not available to everyone in other establishments, get involved! Also consider a wide range of career paths when you progress through school, rule nothing out. You'll spend a large proportion of your life in your chosen career, it is important you chose something which gets you excited and motivated. Also, if your path leads you through university, I highly recommend an industry sponsored course with work placements (a sandwich course), my course at Loughborough involved a year in uni, 6 months on placement, a year in uni, a second 6 month placement and a final year at university. The balance of this worked well for me as I was able to tailor my learning based on my site experiences and use what I had learned to make the most of the placements being a useful, fast learning member of the team.

### ***How does it feel knowing that you're now working for the company building the new King's Campus?***

I feel a great sense of pride working for VINCI who are delivering the next phase in the school's long and proud history. I've worked on a wide array of projects including hospitals, retail developments to secure mental health facilities and you could see from the outset that this is going to be a fantastic development that will benefit the pupils and teachers alike and fit in well with the beautiful Cheshire countryside.



## SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD... THE SHIELDHALL TUNNEL



UK



*In 2013, Scottish Water entrusted a consortium including VINCI with a design and build mandate to construct Glasgow's Shieldhall Tunnel. Consisting of 2 shafts (20 metres deep), a cut-and-cover trench 250 metres long, and a new 5 kilometre long tunnel. It will provide the country with the second largest wastewater storage facility.*

**BACKGROUND**

The issue of collecting and treating storm and waste water in large urban centres is an increasingly pressing problem.

The city of Glasgow's existing water-management networks were overwhelmed and deteriorating due to age. Scottish Water launched a call for a partner to increase the city of Glasgow's wastewater-storage capacity whilst preventing any discharge into the Clyde, Scotland's second-longest river.

**TECHNICAL OVERVIEW**

Part of a major works programme, the scheme aims to upgrade the water-collection and distribution system in Glasgow.

To that end, the project comprises construction of a 5-kilometre gravity-driven storage tunnel to store stormwater and wastewater, thereby resolving the problem of overflows into the Clyde and helping to clean up the river, while reducing the risk of flooding. The project also called for the construction of 2 shafts and upgrades to the existing network.

A highly specialised Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) was used to excavate the 5.5km tunnel.

The tunnel runs through several former coal mines, thereby requiring preliminary soil-injection work, and also runs at shallow depths below 3 railway lines and the M77 motorway.

**IMPACT**

Shieldhall will provide Scotland with the largest wastewater storage tunnel. It will improve the quality of water in Glasgow, reduce the risk of flooding, and reduce pollution in the Clyde River.

For VINCI, it adds to our many achievements in underground works, including the Hallandsås railway tunnels in Sweden, tunnels in Chile's El Teniente mine, and on the Hong Kong metro and Cairo metro lines.

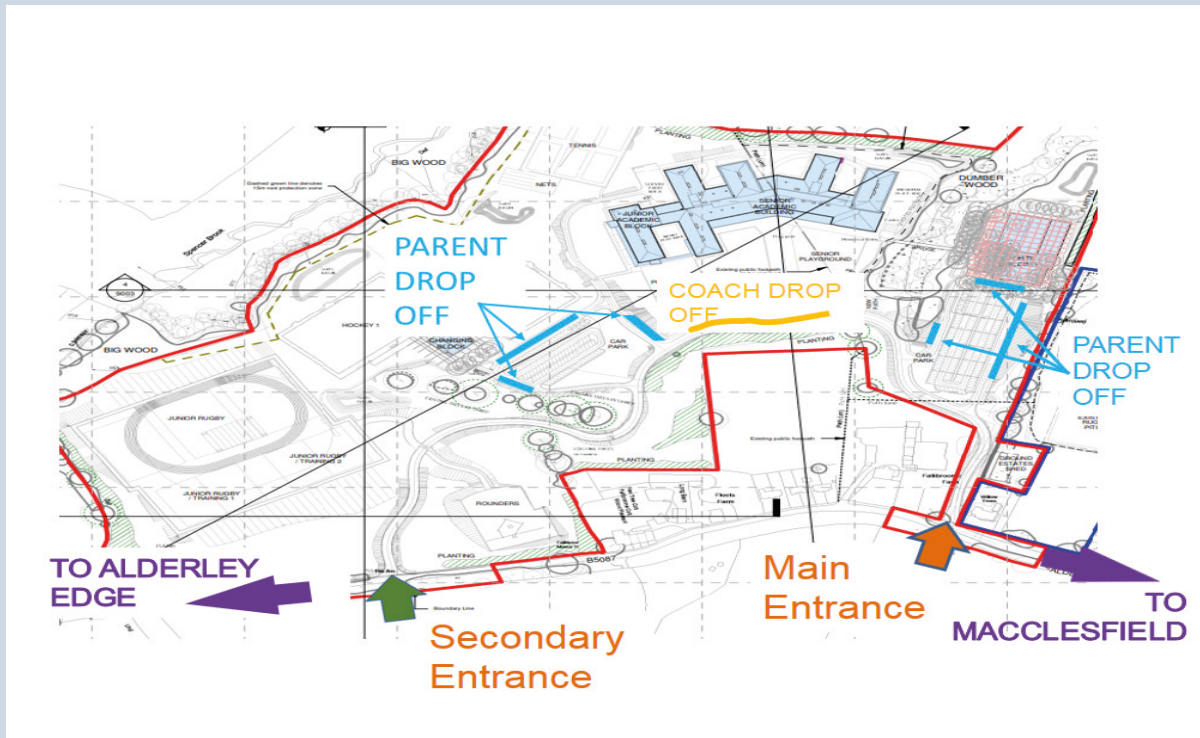
It also adds to our roster of current underground works in the United Kingdom. Currently, VINCI is carrying out one of three lots of the Tideway Project and 2 contracts as part of the Crossrail construction project (Whitechapel Station and tunnels below Liverpool Street and Whitechapel Stations).





## FAQS

Here we answer some of the recent questions asked by parents and pupils



### 1. How will I access the new campus?

Access to the new school site will be through two entrance / exits from Alderley Road (B5087). The main entrance is towards the Macclesfield side of the school site, with a secondary entrance further towards Alderley Edge.

To minimise congestion on the Alderley Road, new junctions will be created, each with a west-bound slip lane formed, allowing the free flowing movement of vehicles travelling towards Alderley Edge.

### 2. Where do I drop off my children?

Parent Drop-off Zones have been created to the south west of the main school building and to the south of the Sports Centre.

### 3. What provision is there for parking on the school site for parents and visitors?

There are two main car parks in addition to the existing car park at the Derby Fields pavillion. One is near the Infant and Junior entrance to the main building and the other is near the Sports Centre.

### 4. Is there a bus drop-off zone?

A Bus / Coach drop-off area has been created to the front of the main school building.

### 5. Is there pedestrian access for children walking to school?

Yes, pedestrian access will be via a footpath at the rear of Prestbury Day Nursery, next to the bus stop on Macclesfield Road.