



MEDIA RELEASE

14th December 2009

New Academy takes shape in Chelsea

An innovative new Academy, being created in the heart of Chelsea by Wates Construction, has reached a major milestone today.

The project, which includes the creation of a 5-storey tower and a 2 to 3 storey accommodation block and sports hall, was 'topped out' on Friday (11 December) at a ceremony led by James Wates, Deputy Chairman of Wates Group and sponsors Councillor Merrick Cockell, Leader of The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Inigo Woolf, Director Finance and Resources, London Diocesan Board for Schools.

The Academy makes creative use of its constrained site through the delivery of outdoor play spaces at different levels.

The entire scheme is due for completion in the summer of 2010, ahead of the start of the 2010/11 academic year.

Richard Shroll, Wates Project Director, said: 'We are delighted that this tremendous project has progressed so well and remains firmly on track for completion next summer, on time and on budget. The entire construction team has contributed to successfully reaching this important milestone and we look forward to creating an Academy that will be a credit to Kensington and Chelsea and inspire all its new pupils in the future.'

Councillor Merrick Cockell, said: "I am delighted to be able to take part in the topping out ceremony of what is clearly going to be a very fine building. We have very high aspirations for the Chelsea Academy and have long been determined to provide its pupils with a building where they can prosper. I now look forward eagerly to it opening its doors to pupils for the first time in September 2010".

Inigo Woolf, Director Finance and Resources, London Diocesan Board for Schools, said: "I am extremely pleased at the marvelous progress that is being made at Chelsea Academy and look forward to September 2010 when the new school building will welcome pupils.

"This is the fifth Church of England Academy in the London Diocese – a growth and expansion which reflects our commitment to high quality education. I am very proud to be a part of today's celebration."

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Notes to Editors:

Wates is one of the UK's largest family-owned construction services and development companies. Established in 1897, it remains privately owned by the Wates Family. Wates employs more than 2,200 people and had a turnover of £1,009 million in 2008.

The company works across a range of sectors, including education, prisons, affordable housing, retail fit out and refurbishment, office interiors, land development and commercial buildings.

Wates has three areas of Corporate Responsibility focus: to reduce the impact of CO² emissions from our activities; Target Zero of eliminating all non-hazardous waste to landfill by 2010; and boosting skills and employability in areas of most need. Wates was awarded Silver status in the Business in the Community Responsible Business index in 2008.

Safety is a top priority within the Wates Group, and the excellent safety record has resulted in RoSPA Gold Awards for Occupational Safety and the British Safety Council Awards for the past six years.

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