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Thorpe Park signs up as main sponsor to the new David Young Academy

The David Young Academy - Leeds' newest school, due to open for the start of the new academic year in 2006 – has received a major boost in its development. The academy, which is offering four main vocational curriculum themes, has secured the main sponsorship of Thorpe Park (Leeds) Ltd.

Thorpe Park (Leeds) Ltd is the management and development company responsible for the country's third largest business park – Thorpe Park in east Leeds. The company will be underpinning the construction curriculum package at the new academy.

Students taking the construction package at the academy graduate the course with a BTEC National Diploma in Construction. Apart from focussing on curriculum activities, the academy's management are keen to enable the students to experience construction issues in the 'real world' as well as the classroom.

“The aim of the academy is to prepare students for the wealth of opportunities available to them,” said Mohsin Zulfiqar, Education Leeds Director for East Leeds.

“We fully realise that practical experience and interaction from professionals in the trade provide excellent motivation and learning opportunities. That is why we are so pleased that Thorpe Park has agreed to be the main sponsor of the construction package.

“Through their sponsorship, our students will be able to enjoy work placements, access to mentors and role models, individual financial sponsorship and bursaries, mock interview programmes and a whole host of other activities that will make a crucial difference to the learning abilities of the academy students.”

Under the sponsorship, students will be able to choose from mentors and work placements offers from across the professional team that works with Thorpe Park (Leeds) Ltd.

In addition, individual companies on Thorpe Park are being encouraged to take part in the Thorpe Park (Leeds) Ltd sponsorship of the academy by inviting students into their operations where relevant.

“Thorpe Park boasts a wide range of construction and property specialist companies as occupiers, so I imagine they will be queuing up to assist us with the project,” said Deborah Doyle, Director of Thorpe Park (Leeds) Ltd.

“Thorpe Park is a huge development – we have over 1.5 million square feet of potential space still to be developed over the next few years. A project of this size critically depends on an available pool of talented and dedicated construction specialists. The programme at the David Young Academy will be able to provide the skilled workers

needed to keep Leeds at the forefront of commercial development. And we are delighted to be able to help the academy achieve their ambitions.”

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