

New college completes a 'vision' for education

SIXTH form students in Harlow are set to benefit from a groundbreaking partnership between the town's college and four of its secondary schools.

The new West Essex Sixth Form College (WestVic), which will offer A-level courses in a wide range of subjects, is the result of a collaboration between Burnt Mill, Mark Hall, Passmores and Stewards schools and Harlow College.

Speaking at the official launch on Friday, Harlow MP Bill Rammell said: "This is a fantastic idea offering more opportunities to young people in Harlow.

"If you look back to the early 1980s and what the intention was for education in Harlow, this initiative completes the vision. It will offer excellent pastoral care, continuity and, crucially will help keep young people in the education system."

Harlow College principal Colin Hindmarch added: "This unique partnership brings together unrivalled knowledge of the young people of Harlow. The partner schools have worked with them over a number of years and, because of this groundbreaking

By **LOUISE SASSOON**, News Editor
sassooll@hertsessexnews.co.uk

opportunity, these schools are now able to support their students through further education."

From September, WestVic students will be taught in purpose-built accommodation on the Harlow College site. Staff from the four schools will teach the subjects along with lecturers from the college to ensure greater continuity of education.

Each school will also offer a specialist subject in accordance with its own skills and knowledge.

Burnt Mill School headteacher Stephen Chamberlain said: "It's a logical extension for both teachers and students to get the opportunities that they need for their own successful futures."

Jane Hadlow, of Mark Hall School, said there has been a 20 per cent increase in applications to the college as a result of the partnership, while Passmores head Vic Goddard said: "Our pupils are with us for five years and this initiative for post 16 education means that we don't lose that connection."

Stewards headteacher Rhonda Murther added: "Lots of young people will benefit from the independent learning style."



GO WEST: Pictured at Friday's launch are, left to right, Jane Hadlow (Mark Hall), Colin Hindmarch (Harlow College), David Brunwin (St Mark's), Bill Rammell, Vic Goddard (Passmores), Stephen Chamberlain (Burnt Mill) and Rhonda Murther (Stewards)
(photo: HAR0557907)

Garages get fresh lease of life after refurb work

WORK on the major refurbishment of a run-down garage block which has become a hotspot for anti-social behaviour has been completed.

The council-owned garages at Moorfields, Harlow were originally a two-storey block of 146 garages which had deteriorated into such a state of disrepair that the underground section had been sealed off for many years.

The site was cleared and work started in December 2008 to rebuild 30 bigger, more secure garages and create 38 much-needed parking spaces, including two disabled bays.

The transformation was completed last month.



Twins will celebrate their birthday together for first time in 60 years

AN elderly Harlow resident has a special reason to celebrate her 80th birthday today (Thursday) after her globetrotting twin sister travelled all the way from Australia to join the party.

Pearl Roalf, of Moorfield, was overjoyed to find her sister, Pat Peskett, on her doorstep earlier this month.

It will be the first time the twins have celebrated their birthday together since the 1950s.

They will be joined by Pearl's husband Peter and other family members for a celebratory meal at the Harlow Mill Beefeater this afternoon.

Mr Roalf told the Star: "Pearl was so pleased to see Pat again. We last had her over in 1992 so as you can imagine they have had a lot of catching up to do! "They're both looking forward to celebrating this milestone



MANY HAPPY RETURNS: Pat Peskett, left, and Pearl Roalf
(photo: HAR0553432)

together as it will be the first time they've been together on the day since they were both

single girls celebrating their 20th. It's amazing how time flies!"

Fewer robberies on rail network but number of drug arrests soar

THE number of people arrested for drug-related offences on the rail network serving Harlow and the surrounding area has shot up, according to British Transport Police.

Latest figures show a rise of 54 per cent in drugs offences last year, up from 646 in 2007/08 to 996.

But overall the total number of recorded crimes in the London North patch, which includes East Anglia and the northern Home Counties, fell by two per cent.

Robberies, sexual assaults and

criminal damage were all down but violent crime and theft of railway property increased.

Chief Superintendent Mark Newton, area commander for London North, said it was the fourth year running the number of robberies committed on the network has dropped.

"Uniformed officers working closely alongside detectives from our robbery squad have continued to track down and bring those responsible for robbery offences before the courts," he added.

The fall in the number of crimes has coincided with a 22 per cent rise in detection rates, up from 3,634 in 2007/8 to 4,426 in 2008/09.

New neighbourhood policing teams introduced at major transport hubs to tackle anti-social behaviour have improved police visibility and increased the number of arrests for theft and possession of drugs.

The increase in arrests for drugs offences has also been attributed to the use of sniffer dogs as part of operations targeting knife crime.

DON'T SLIP UP AGAIN!



Last year we gave away to **65% OFF** in our **REALLY BIG SALE** - did you miss out?

Then don't worry, this year A & A Windows Ltd is offering to help you save thousands of pounds across our range of windows, doors and conservatories

with line

OFFICIAL 2009 BIGGEST SALE

Come and see our new remote opening front door system.

5 The Fairway, Bush Fair, Harlow

(Behind the Esso Petrol Station)

01279 30 40 30

Showroom open

9am - 5.30pm Weekdays, 9.30am - 4.30pm Saturday

www.aawindows.co.uk