



Westleigh
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futures



Countesthorpe
Community
College

Westleigh Vocational Academy at Countesthorpe Community College

Westleigh Vocational Academy is a brand new 3,800 square feet facility, located in the grounds of Countesthorpe Community College. The academy will provide a training centre for construction skills, vehicle maintenance, hairdressing, beauty therapy and IT.

The project will cost £400,000 to build and set up. Countesthorpe Community College has secured funding of £200,000, which includes input from Leicestershire County Council and South Leicestershire Partnership and Westleigh will fund the difference, making the scheme an equal partnership.

The academy site before construction - a former bungalow, unsuitable to the needs of a training centre.



A computer generated image of what the academy will look like

The building will benefit from an A rated energy performance certificate. The form of construction will be timber frame, which will be provided by Westleigh's subsidiary company, Westframe, with brick cladding.

An example of Westframe's timber frames being used in commercial construction.



Countesthorpe Community College students Will Attfield (front) and Lewis Sreaton (rear) preparing to demolish the bungalow.

Who will use the academy?

It is intended that 122 trainees will complete courses during the academic year 10/11, 220 in 11/12 and 230 by 12/13.

The facility will be open to the following age groups:

- 14 to 16 year old pupils attending Countesthorpe Community College
- Post 16 students attending Countesthorpe Community College
- It is anticipated that the facility will also be offered to other Leicestershire schools and college pupils to use during school hours.
- Further, it is intended that the facility will be open to provide evening classes for older persons seeking retraining opportunities.

Current Westleigh apprentices Oliver Brotherton (left), Steve Stannage (centre) and Andy Foulkes (right)



Qualifications

The academy will offer the following qualifications

Pre 16

- BTEC Introductory Diploma in Construction Level 1 – A 360 hour course with units in joinery, bricklaying, health and safety, personal effectiveness, social responsibility and basic building maintenance
- VTCT Introduction to Beauty Therapies levels 1 and 2 - A 180 hour course
- Introduction to Hairdressing levels 1 and 2 A 360 hour course
- BTEC Certificate in hairdressing levels 1 and 2 - A180 hour course
- ABC Diploma in Vehicle Engineering levels 1 and 2 – A 360 hour course
- NVQs in Construction Skills

Post 16

- As above with the addition of one day weekly work experience and the opportunity to re-sit Maths and English GCSE, plus training in core skills on Customer Care and ICT.

Apprenticeships

The facility will have strong links with local FE colleges to provide a gateway to formal construction qualifications. The academy will also become Westleigh's feeder for apprenticeships. Westleigh already recruits a number of apprentices each year. A build programme of 700 units per annum will typically allow for three to four apprentices, which we hope will be taken from the academy.

There is also potential for the academy to provide apprentices to other developers and contractors and we hope that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and our partner registered social landlords (RSLs) will assist in the promotion of the academy to this end.

Programme

The new facility will be delivered according to the following programme:

Start on site – 19 December 2009
Practical completion – May 2010
Facility opens – September 2010



“Working in partnership with Westleigh Developments has created the opportunity we have been waiting for to make our vision a reality. This is what is meant by a partnership working at its best, combining education with local industry to the benefit of young people in Leicestershire.”

Brian Myatt, Principal at
Countesthorpe Community College

“This is a significant project for Westleigh and we are delighted to be working with Countesthorpe Community College. We take pride in investing in our own people and firmly believe the value of nurturing talent from the grass roots, especially here on our home ground.

“Indeed this scheme goes beyond the remit of straight forward development as we intend to involve the students in the build process, for example with regular site visits to see how the timber frames are made.”

Chris Beighton,
Managing Director for Westleigh Developments



About Westleigh

Established in 1985 and based in Leicester at the heart of the East Midlands, we are strategically located to provide service excellence throughout Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire and Northamptonshire.

We provide the total package from land identification to project completion, creating quality, impressive homes for our registered social landlord and local authority partners, as well as speculative housing for sale and stunning buildings for industrial or commercial clients.

We have a genuine commitment to a partnering approach and as a result our developments make a fundamental contribution to the creation of the ideal environment in which people want to live and where our clients' businesses can develop and flourish.

Westframe

Westframe designs and manufactures bespoke, environmentally friendly, timber frame housing solutions for the construction industry from its factory in Enderby, Leicestershire.

Timber enables housing associations to comply with the Housing Corporation's requirements in terms of Modern Methods of Construction. Westframe now also supplies 100% of the frames required for all timber homes, as well as commercial developments built by Westleigh.



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