

The Beacon Centre Officially Opened for Bury College

by Bill Rammell MP

Bury College's newest building was officially opened last week by the Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education. Bill Rammell MP officially named the new £6 million building 'The Beacon Centre' in a special ceremony also attended by Hollyoaks star Matt Littler.

AA Projects have provided the project management and quantity surveying services on the development of this state-of-the-art teaching facility that took just over 12 months to complete. The Beacon Centre provides first class facilities for Performance Arts, Humanities, Languages, Health and Social Care and Pre-entry to Uniformed Services. It accommodates the College's Centre of Vocational Excellence in Early Years Development and Childcare together with a theatre, dance and rehearsal studios, a new recording studio, language lab and coffee bar.

AA Projects has worked closely with Bury College to ensure that the College's long-term vision and aspirations for the campus were achieved through considered planning, cost management and an innovative design scheme. Niall Wright, Director of AA Projects, said: "Bury College delivers 'A' level and vocational education of the very highest standard and we are proud to have helped in the provision of these first class learning facilities. We are delighted to be at the opening today to help celebrate the College's achievements and to mark the opportunities that the Beacon Centre will provide for local students."

To mark the occasion, special guest actor Matt Littler who plays Max Cunningham in Hollyoaks introduced a 'Theatre Showcase' performed by Bury College's Performance Arts Students. The performance was staged in the College's brand new Beacon Theatre. After the performance, Bill Rammell, Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further & Higher Education said:

"I am delighted to have been invited to officially open the Beacon Centre at Bury College. It is a shining example of how innovative design helps make the learning experience a more enjoyable and inspirational one for students. This new centre is a vital contribution to the lives of local people, local and regional employers and post-16 education nationally and I congratulate everyone involved in its development."

The word "Beacon" has long been associated with education and is fitting as the College received the Learning and Skills Beacon award in recognition of excellence and innovation, ranking the College as one of the best Further Education Colleges in the country in 2004.

Left to Right: College Principal Luran Chatburn with Bill Rammell MP and the Chair of Governors Fred Bowen.

A 'Theatre Showcase' performance staged in the new Beacon Centre Theatre.

ENDS

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Notes to editor:

AA Projects is one of the fastest growing construction consultancies in the country with extensive professional experience and expertise within both the Public and Private Sectors. The company has experienced exponential growth since their launch in 1999 and have seen their **business grow by 50% in the last year.**

The company has a well-established client base across a range of sectors including Education, Finance, Transport, Residential, Insurance, Local

Authority and Arts & Leisure. The company has UK offices in Manchester, Liverpool and Darlington.

AA Projects pride themselves on achieving best value for clients, providing specialist knowledge of property solutions, procurement, financing and the complete management of the construction process.

AA Projects are particularly renowned for their work within the **Further Education, Higher Education and schools** sectors. The company has extensive experience with the leading funding bodies in these areas, providing successful grant applications to support the ongoing developments.

For more information see www.aaprojects.co.uk/

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