



November 2017

Welsh College Restoration

The restoration of Aberystwyth Old College is benefiting from more than £10m of Lottery funding which has been earmarked for the project.



The total cost of the redevelopment is estimated to be around £22m, with the university planning other sources of financing for the project including a major fundraising appeal.

Work is now underway to develop plans for the building as a performance and gallery space for artists, exhibitions and musicians, a centre for entrepreneurs and new businesses, as well as café and community rooms. It will also house a university museum, allowing some of the 20,000 items normally in storage to be shown the light of day. A new science centre will showcase interactive displays alongside a planetarium and 4D facility, highlighting the university's links with the European Space Agency.

The aim is to complete Old College's

transformation in time for the university's 150th anniversary in 2022. The Grade I listed Old College with its gothic seafront façade first opened its doors to students in 1872 having been purchased by the University of Wales for £10,000 in 1867 using money donated by the local community.

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New Hospital for South Wales

A new £350m Specialist and Critical Care Centre (SCCC) in Llanfrechfa, Cwmbran, South East Wales is being constructed for the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board by Laing O'Rourke



The 55,000 m² 471 bed facility will be known as The Grange University Hospital.

Work commenced this summer, thirteen years after initially being proposed and the hospital is expected to open to patients in spring 2021.

The state of the art hospital will be home to more than 40 specialist services and offer 24-hour acute assessment and emergency services to 600,000 people in the South East



region of Wales. Some of these services will be transferred from neighbouring hospitals at Newport and Abergavenny,

Over the next 4 years the project will have engaged 600 building operatives, installed 10,500 voice and data points, 13,500 light fittings, laid 118 miles of cables and 30,000 m3 of concrete in providing this modern facility.

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Construction T-Levels to start in 2020

Plans have been revealed by the Department of Education that Construction T-levels are to begin in 2020. These are the government's answer to the decline of technical teaching in the UK. They will be offered as an alternative to A-levels for students of a more practical than academic inclination.

Education secretary Justine Greening has announced the first three T-levels would be in construction, digital technology, and education & childcare. More T-level qualifications will follow on, in subjects such as manufacturing, engineering, legal, finance and accounting.

“As part of making sure that the technical education ladder reaches every bit as high as the academic one, I want to see T-levels that are as rigorous and respected as A-levels,” she said. The content of T-levels will be developed by newly appointed panels comprising industry professionals and employers, including Morgan Sindall and Skanska.

All T-level programmes will also include a

substantial work placement so that students can apply their learning in a real workplace. The full T-levels action plan is available on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-skills-plan-and-independent-report-on-technical-education>

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Demolition Degree Launched

The University of Wolverhampton has launched the first demolition management master's degree programme in the UK.



Above: **Paul Hampton (University of Wolverhampton), Patricia Słoneczny, Richard Dolman (both AR Demolition) and John Woodward (C&D Consultancy)** John Woodward is a member of our **Institute**. Studies start this term at the University's School of Architecture & Built Environment. Accredited by the Institute of Demolition Engineers (IDE), the course has been designed in conjunction with industry specialists and will be delivered by both academics and demolition experts, such as previous ICM Manager of the year winner John Woodward of C&D Consultancy.

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