

JANUARY 2023

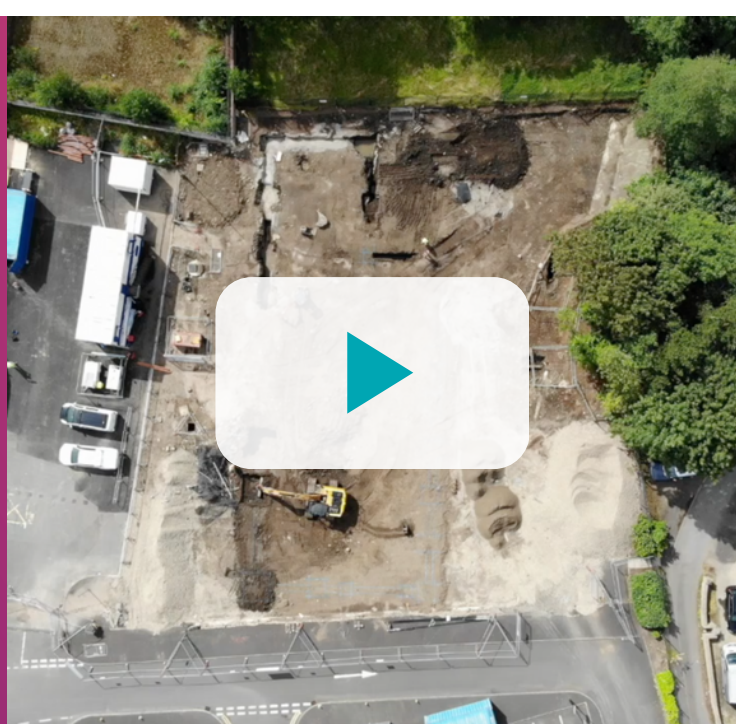
WILLIE MACKIE FUTURE SKILLS HUB

The Future Skills Hub in Kilwinning is an exciting campus development project for the College which is currently under construction on the site of our North Ayrshire Kilwinning Campus. The new Hub will replace the College's existing workshop facilities at Nethermains and enable the College to offer a dynamic and flexible curriculum aligned to the needs of local and national skills priorities. The development has been designed by Hunter Thomson Architects and construction is underway by Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd. The Future Skills Hub is scheduled for completion to support our students during the 2023/24 academic session.

The low carbon two-storey building will provide a flexible learning space that can respond to emerging technologies as we upskill the workforce of the future in Engineering, Construction and SMART Technologies. The College facility will be supported by green technologies using air source heat pumps for the building's heating systems.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Watch our drone footage to see how the construction has progressed since work began in July 2022. We have also set up cameras for this project, to enable a full timelapse video showing the entire construction process from start to finish!



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

As the main contractor for the construction of the Willie Mackie Future Skills Hub, Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd has been fully on board with our vision of having students involved throughout the project and has engaged with curriculum to create learning opportunities.

So far, two NPA Bricklaying students – Darren Woods and George Rush - have enjoyed week-long work experience placements. These students were selected following a round of interviews conducted by Ashleigh Scotland's Lauren Cahir (Community Co-ordinator), Corinne Carswell (HR Advisor), Derek Davidson (Area Director) & Ayrshire College's Cameron Bell (Head of Learning and Skills).



Darren Woods



George Rush



Interview panel

Two joinery students will be selected for a similar experience early next year, with interviews scheduled for Wednesday 11 January 2023.

Students have also been involved in site visits, with HNC Construction Management students enjoying a visit to the Future Skills Hub with their lecturer Barry Kerr on 7 December.



HNC Construction Management Students visit the site

Lecturer Barry Kerr said "The students found the site visit very informative and were thankful for the in-depth discussion from project manager Graeme Laird around the general Health & Safety on construction sites, the day-to-day workings of a Construction Manager, as well as your expertise and the proactive approach to resolving issues as they arise to keep the build on programme. This has really helped contextualise what they have been learning about in the classroom and see it all slotting into place in a real-life situation."

REGULAR UPDATES

As the building continues to progress and more exciting updates become available to share, we'll be sure to keep you in the loop every step of the way. We also look forward to welcoming you to some open days we have planned in 2023 – with dates to be confirmed in future updates.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Of course, none of this would be possible without the commitment, hard work, planning, and passion of our funding partners, project sponsors, and stakeholders directly involved in this ambitious project. In this first update, we'd like to extend a special thank you to the following:



Thanks also to our stakeholders in the community for your continued engagement and feedback including :

Residents of Caley House, Bridge Church, Kilwinning Bowling Club, the wider local community of Kilwinning and also to subcontractors and suppliers who will help deliver our vision for the Willie Mackie Future Skills Hub on our Kilwinning Campus.

