



THE HOULTON *Signal*

SPRING 2021

First with the latest messages from Houlton, Rugby

TRANSFORMING OUR FUTURE

*From historic radio station to
state-of-the-art school*

The final phases of the construction of our new secondary school, Houlton School, are well underway! After two years of careful restoration and construction, we have transformed the Grade-II listed Rugby Radio Station into a stunning state-of-the-art school.

The pioneering new building, which will boast unrivalled specialist facilities, has been delivered as part of the Houlton development by master developer Urban&Civic with support from the Department of Education.

Pupils will benefit from a purpose-built Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) facility, brand new visual and performing arts studios and an expansive green-field campus. The school's sports facility has also been upgraded to a Sports England compliant Centre for Sports.

Bringing a new lease of life to the historic building, many of its stunning original features have also been lovingly restored and retained.

The former Power Hall Gallery's unique porthole windows have been reopened to reveal the striking

character of the entrance courtyard, while the Power Hall itself has been carefully converted into an assembly hall and canteen.

A new 5-storey structure has been inserted into the shell of the Transmission Hall where the revolutionary tuning coil used to be located, which will house the school's art and music space, drama studio, dance studio and sixth form social area.

Part of a £35million investment into the creation of the new community, Houlton School has been delivered ahead of schedule and Principal Michael McCulley and his team are preparing to welcome the school's first intake of Year 7 pupils this September.

We look forward to welcoming the staff and pupils to their new home in September. Find out more about Houlton School and meet Principal Michael McCulley inside...



Also inside...

- Meet Principal McCulley
- Latest News & Views
- Homes for all at Houlton P4

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MEET PRINCIPAL *Michael McCulley*

The Houlton School family will include a dedicated team of teachers led by Principal Michael McCulley in partnership with the Transforming Lives Educational Trust (TLET). Here, we get to know Principal McCulley...

Q: Tell us a little about yourself – where are you from and how long have you had a career in education?

I moved to Warwickshire with my family when I was eight years old and grew up not too far away from Rugby in nearby Leamington Spa. We came here because it's such a beautiful place to live and somewhere we knew families thrive.

My career started at an all-through 5-18 school in Scotland, and more recently I've worked to build capacity within schools in South Warwickshire and Worcestershire, so education really is a true passion of mine. I want to serve the community in Warwickshire because it's a place where people can have transformational experiences and go on to have a great life because of great education, which is something we strive to deliver at Houlton School.

Q: As we all know, the school will occupy the stunning Grade-II listed former Rugby Radio Station building. What does it mean to you to occupy such a significant building?

Houlton School will occupy a truly iconic building – it's a great honour to be able to call the former Rugby Radio Station site home. The building holds such significance to the Rugby area and its community, standing as a symbol of such rich heritage and iconic stature.

We are privileged to be the latest custodians of such an important building and to breathe a new lease of life into it. It will be a beacon school within Warwickshire, a place of historic national importance that's now going to be transformed into a legacy of lifelong learning for generations to come.

Q: Plans for the new building itself look very exciting! What kind of specialist facilities and amenities can pupils expect from the new site?

The great thing about Houlton School is that it's going to have some fantastic specialist facilities, no matter what the students' interests. We've got a Sports England sports centre, performing arts studios, dance studios and a purpose-built Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics facility,

so no matter what your child's aspirations are, we will not only be able to cater for them, but will help them flourish and ultimately achieve their dreams.

In addition to our academic curriculum, Houlton School will honour its heritage by offering Broadcast and New Media routes to older students, and will even have its own radio broadcast facilities, continuing the site's legacy and global heritage as a centre of excellence for communication.



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Work is progressing at pace

Q: As a school, what is your aspiration and approach to learning? What kind of environment and educational opportunities will the school offer its pupils?

Houlton School will be a place where innovation and academic excellence leads to transformation in young people's lives. We want children to be happy, but we also want them to be successful, because if they're both of those things then they're going to go on to have a rich life.

Our curriculum will take every opportunity to be innovative in teaching and education, working together with our partners in this pursuit of excellence. Our commitment will be underpinned by traditional values and a commitment towards instilling in our young people the importance of positive relationships and a determined work ethic to a happy and fulfilling life.

Q: The school will be part of Transforming Lives Educational Trust (TLET). How are you working with TLET on running the school? As an organisation, what expertise do they bring to the school?

One of the Trust's core values is excellence, and we are already delivering excellence in our existing schools within

the Trust, including at nearby Ashlawn School. Houlton School is a natural extension to how we're going to be delivering a first-class education on a wider platform for more families in Rugby. We're going to be taking on an iconic building and developing an iconic curriculum that will harvest the very best from the Trust's existing schools and best practice from across the country.

Q: The school will be located right in the heart of the Houlton neighbourhood. What makes Houlton such a fantastic location for the school?

Houlton School is at the very centre of the growing neighbourhood, and indeed we want it to become the heartbeat of the community itself. Not only does the development boast everything young people need to flourish and excel, including ample outdoor space and amenities, but it is home to people that we can be proud of. Houlton is already such a special, close-knit community and we are delighted to be joining the Houlton family.

Q: What role does Houlton's master developer Urban&Civic have with the school? How will you continue to work together long after the build is complete and the school is up and running?

As master developer of Houlton, Urban&Civic has played an active role in the transformation of the Rugby Radio Station building into Houlton School. Not only have they helped bring a pioneering, state-of-the-art facility to life but the team has continued to work closely with us to shape and develop the future of the school, as well.

Q: How would I get a place for my child? What is the admission process for the school?

Houlton School forms part of the outline planning permission for the overall development of Houlton. It is built to cater for the growing community there and so its priority area is Houlton first and foremost. Whilst this community continues to grow, it will also prioritise children from the north of Rugby. For more information on how our admissions work – visit our website.



To watch the full video interview visit our YouTube channel.



Houlton School is a joint venture between Houlton's master developer Urban&Civic, Aviva Investors, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and the Department for Education (DfE) and delivered by leading construction firm Morgan Sindall Construction.

FIND OUT MORE AT:
HOULTONSCHOOL.ORG.UK



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Latest news



SNEAK PEEK: NEW ADDITIONS COMING SOON TO OUR COMMUNITY HUB

The expansion of our community hub, Dollman Farm, has continued to forge ahead over the past few months, with the construction of the new Co-operative store and The Old Station nursery well underway.

We're excited to share a sneak peek of progress on-site, where the buildings' steel frame structures and the concrete pour of flooring are now in place. This will pave the way for the installation of brickwork and windows in the near future. These newest on-site facilities will open in Autumn this year, and we look forward to sharing more details soon. Visit www.houltonrugby.co.uk/news-events to find out more.



HOME IS *where the Heart is*



Leading housing association, Midland Heart, will join our growing community this year, delivering 158 high-quality affordable homes here at Houlton.

Due to be completed from August 2021, the beautiful homes will be a mix of two and three-bedroom properties, with 44 available for shared ownership.

The shared ownership scheme is an excellent way for first time buyers or those who may need a little help to buy their dream home in the perfect location. It's ideal if you have limited savings, as you only need a deposit for the share percentage you are assessed to buy.

TO FIND OUT MORE OR REGISTER YOUR INTEREST, CONTACT THE SALES TEAM TODAY ON 0800 44 55 67.



Say hello to *Civic Living's stylish, sustainable homes*

In January, work began to bring Houlton's newest selection of homes to the development. The launch of Civic Living will see 38 modern, modular housing units delivered on site, offering flexible yet functional living for new homeowners.

As well as a contemporary, bright and spacious design, the beautiful homes will offer high-quality specification and energy efficient technology.

The plots will be perfectly located in the heart of our growing neighbourhood along the southern edge of the site, just a short walk away from our lively community hub Dollman Farm, overlooking one of our most spectacular open green spaces, Normandy Hill.

Prospective homeowners will soon be able to browse and reserve the stunning 2 and 3-bedroom houses when showhomes open later this Spring.

Prospective homeowners can now register their interest in Civic Living homes at Connells' Rugby branch by emailing rugby@connells.co.uk or phoning 01788 579880.

CivicLiving

See you soon at The Barn

Although our doors have been closed for some time now, we hope to welcome you back to The Barn very soon.

Keep an eye on Facebook for the latest updates.



Spot your snaps of Houlton

Our outdoor exhibition has now been installed along our nature trails. The installation showcases Houlton's wonderful world of wildlife captured in our photography competition last summer.

Have you spotted it on your walk yet?



A very Hoppy Easter is coming to Houlton

The Easter Bunny is busy making some very eggs-iting plans for Easter at Houlton.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more news!

