

Angus gets GB call up – aged just 17



A BRADFORD dragonboat racer has qualified to represent Great Britain less than one year after taking up the sport, and will be competing against men up to seven years older than him.

Angus Bell, 17, will compete for the GB under 24s team when they travel to Thailand to compete in August.

He only took up the sport to make up numbers in his mother's work team at last year's Dragonboat Festival, but caught the bug instantly.

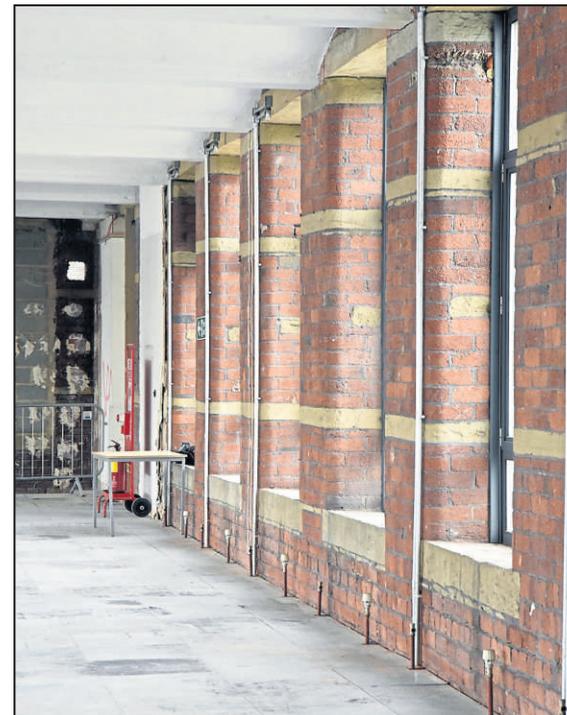
A member of Bradford Barracudas, he helped the team bring home gold in the National Championships last year.

Computer science student Angus said: "As my coach says – I'm just taking everything 60 seconds at a time, training hard and valuing this amazing chance to represent my country."

John Galt, coach of the club, said Angus is "a wonderful individual" and "a credit to his family and Bradford as a whole".



Headteacher Mark Rothery marks the topping out at the new Dixons Sixth Form



Inside the new Dixons Sixth Form building



Kier is hard at work renovating the building

Topping out at new sixth form academy

By David Jagger
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A TOPPING out ceremony has taken place at a new sixth form college set to open in Bradford in September following a £13 million renovation.

The ceremony took place at Dixons Sixth Form Academy in Bowling Old Lane, off Manchester Road, which will open later this year for students across Bradford.

Representatives from Dixons Academies Trust, Bradford Council and Kier Group - which has been in charge of the renovation of the former Douglas Mills. The ceremony also offered a first glimpse inside the old building at work which has been taking place to bring the building up to scratch.

The project involves a full refurbishment of the site and the construction of a new sports hall to accommodate the first cohort of 360 students, which will increase to a full capacity of 880 students by 2021.

Mark Rothery, headteacher, said: "I'm excited in so many different ways.

"It's a fantastic building and we have a great team working on it. We know it will be on time and of fantastic quality."

The main building will include ten science labs, 15 classrooms and a huge top-floor lecture theatre for "blue-ribbon event", Mr Rothery added.



Dixons Sixth Form Academy in the former Douglas Mills, which is set to open on schedule in September to the first cohort of students

John O'Callaghan, managing director for Kier Construction Northern, commented: "We are thrilled that the Department of Education has appointed us to deliver Dixons Sixth Form in Bradford.

"There is a shortage of post-16 places the city, and there is no doubt that the construction of a new sixth form will be positive for the local area.

"We will construct modern education, teaching and sporting facilities to help towards Dixons vision which is to continue to revolutionise the education offering in Bradford for all pupils to be Russell Group ready."

A planning application for temporary accommodation for classrooms was submitted last month for the Dixons Sixth Form site, but the academy trust assured this was merely a precautionary measure.

A spokesperson said: "The college will absolutely be ready to open at the end of August.

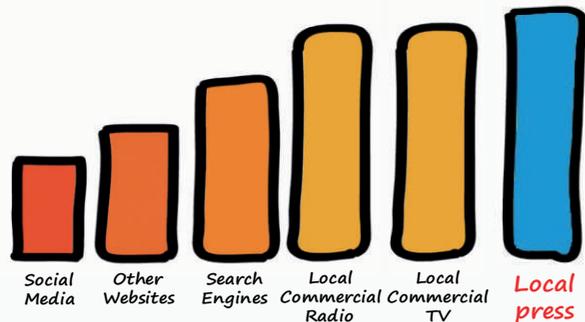
"Kier are working hard with remodelling the building and great progress is taking place.

"The basement room is currently running two weeks behind schedule, so to mitigate any risks, an application has been submitted for one temporary cabin.

"Because our term commences at the very start of September, this is a precautionary measure which if needed will be in place to provide extra capacity for the first few weeks."

Local press three times more trusted than social media

Three quarters of people (74%) trust the information they read in their local paper in print or online. Only 22% trust local news they read on social media platforms.



Local press in print and digital (74 per cent) is the most trusted source for local news and information, ahead of local commercial TV and local commercial radio (both 73 per cent), search engines (43 per cent), social media (22 per cent) and other websites (39 per cent). (YouGov 2018 commissioned by Local Media Works).