

Grooming movie looking for extras

KEIGHLEY people are being urged to come together to appear in the final scene of a film about grooming.

United Keighley, which involves local organisations campaigning against Child Sexual Exploitation, is working with young people on the movie.

Jo Horrox, coordinator of the women and girls' group E5 Keighley, suggested organisations each take along several people.

She said: "The film is an animation with voiceovers which will hopefully dispel any myths surrounding CSE and send a positive message that this crime needs communities to stand together."

"For the final part of the film we would like to see members of our diverse community walking into Keighley College and standing together in unity."

The crowd will display the United Keighley banner 'All Our Children & Young People Matter'. The film will be launched at Keighley's CSE conference in March.

The filming will be the foyer of the college, next to Keighley railway station, on Tuesday February 26 from 4pm to 5pm. Call Jo on 01535 665258 or 07539 684668 for further information.

Guitar trio play to help hospice

A GUITAR trio are again performing for charity.

The Beer House Boys, who have been fundraising for years in aid of Manorlands, will play their latest gig on Friday, March 1.

They are appearing with guests at the Bronte Hotel, Haworth, from 8.30pm.

Admission is free, but donations will be taken for the Oxenhope Sue Ryder hospice.

Last year's event raised more than £460.

"The evening was well supported and we were pleased with the result," said John Toothill, a member of the Beer House Boys.

"It promises to be another great night and everyone – including anybody wishing to sing – is welcome to come along."

Manorlands supports patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families at the hospice and in the community, across an area covering Craven, Airedale and Wharfedale as well as parts of Bradford. Officials say it costs £9,000 a day to keep the hospice doors open.

'Biggest shake up' in memory for education

By David Jagger

01274 705336

david.jagger@telegraphandargus.co.uk

POST-16 education in Bradford is set to enter a new age in September, with the opening of two purpose-built, specialist sixth form colleges.

When New College Bradford and Dixons Sixth Form Academy open for the 2019/20 academic year, they will give students finishing their GCSEs a fresh choice on how to continue their studies.

The changes to sixth-form provision has been described as one of the biggest shake ups for education in Bradford in recent memory.

More than 1,000 applications had been received by the end of 2018 for just 600 places at New College, which will be based in a brand new facility in Nelson Street on the outskirts of the city centre. When full, it will cater for around 1,200 students offering a variety of courses.

Dixons Sixth Form Academy will be located in the former Douglas Mill, based in Bowling Old Lane, also close to the city centre when it too opens in September.

When it opens it will take in 330 students, with an eventual capacity of 880, and Dixons said it has already had almost double the number of applications as there are places available.

This over-subscription for places at the two new colleges is positive news for post-16 education in the city, but what does it mean for traditional sixth forms at schools across the district?

Bradford Council said sixth forms at Queensbury School, Beckfoot Upper Heaton, Appletton Academy and University Academy Keighley have all closed in the past three years, and a further six sixth forms have held or are holding consultations over the proposed closure of their sixth forms.

Dixons Academies Trust confirmed that with the opening of its Sixth Form Academy, the sixth forms at Dixons City and Dixons McMillan, and also serve Dixons Trinity and Dixons Kings academies. A consultation is also ongoing on the closure of Dixons Cottingley Academy – the former Samuel Lister Academy.

However, of Bradford's 33 secondary schools, 25 still operate a sixth form.

Sir Nick Weller, chief executive of



Construction work is ongoing at Douglas Mill on the new Dixons Sixth Form Academy, which opens in September

Dixons Academies Trust, said: "We are very much looking forward to the opening of the new Dixons Sixth Form Academy this coming August at Douglas Mill.

"Dixons Sixth Form Academy will replace our provision at Dixons City and Dixons McMillan, doubling our current capacity. The Sixth Form will also serve Dixons Trinity and Dixons Kings, as well as students from other local schools.

"We have had more than 600 applications for the first 330 student places on opening, and this number is still rising. Our senior team are all appointed and applications for teaching posts are very strong.

"With two of our academies having topped the Post 16 league tables in Bradford this year, we look forward to transforming the life chances of even more young people in our new, larger, dedicated facility.

"Now too we shall also be able to offer the broader range of courses and wider range of extra-curricular activities than a smaller school-based sixth form can support."

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Douglas Mill is currently undergoing a major conversion project, and a new sports hall is being constructed.

Mark Rothery, principal of Dixons Sixth Form, added: "Dixons Sixth Form is a new and exciting development.

"We will be developing the very best post-16 environment to help students achieve truly aspirational outcomes, both in terms of A level grades and personal development."

Councillor Imran Khan, executive member for education, employment and skills, welcomed the two new sixth form colleges.

He said: "The world of work is changing rapidly and our post-16 education needs to reflect this with more choice

and quality for both A level and vocational training.

"This is why the Council worked with secondary headteachers and businesses to develop a plan for Post 16 education and training which we launched in 2016.

"We are already starting to see the benefits of this. Since 2016, A level outcomes have closed the gap on the national average by a grade.

"We hope the two new centres, who are both part of trusts with a track record of delivering outstanding provision, will accelerate this.

"But it's important that the government plays its part by providing the right level of funding. This is about

investing in young people, so they are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to get a good quality job."

Cllr John Pennington, leader of the Conservative Group in Bradford Council, said it was one of the biggest shake ups to Bradford's education he could remember.

He said: "The new colleges offer more choice for our young people, and these changes are tremendous.

"It will have a knock-on effect for our colleges and university too, and I hope students grasp these opportunities with both hands.

"It's great these trusts are investing in Bradford's young people, as they are the future of the country.



New College Bradford, which is currently under construction in Nelson Street, will expand post-16 education in Bradford

"The modern facilities in great locations will also hopefully make our students more eager to learn.

"I would never say no to further investment from the Government either."

It's not just in post-16 education where change is afoot in Bradford.

Two new secondary schools, a boys' school and a girls' school are both set to open in September.

Star Academies Trust is opening its Eden Boys' Leadership Academy on the site of the former Morrisons headquarters in Thornton Road, Girlington, in September.

The school will have a capacity of 800 students, and will open with 120 students in Year 7. However, for the

first two years students will be taught in temporary classrooms and eat in a temporary dining area while the school is built.

It will be run as a Muslim faith school, but Star Academies said it will be open to students of all faiths, and is the sixth school and third secondary school Star Academies will run in the district.

The former home of Education Bradford and Bradford Council's Children's Services will also be brought back into use, as Bronte Girls' Academy.

The Future House site in Bolling Road, Broomfields, will become an 600-place girls-only school, run by the Feversham Education Trust.

New layout helps cut traffic jams



TRAFFIC delays at Steeton Top have been massively cut following changes to the T-junction, says a councillor.

Bradford Council traffic engineers told councillor Adrian Naylor that waiting times for vehicles approaching from Eastburn had reduced from 20 minutes to around five minutes.

He said the new road layout – which involved creating separate lanes for left-turns to Silsden and straight on to Keighley – was working "fantastically well".

He said: "I've seen the improvement myself.

"The long tailbacks as far as Airedale Hospital are not as prevalent these days.

"The situation will improve further with some new software that hasn't been tried before in Bradford district, which will manage the length of the queues."

The new software will work out which of the three queues is longest, and allow that queue more time at green.

Cllr Naylor, who represents Craven ward on Bradford Council, said an extra phase could be added for pedestrians, particularly schoolchildren, who currently face difficulty crossing Station Road.

Station cafe reduces its open hours

THE buffet car cafe at Oxenhope Railway Station will no longer be opening to the public on days when trains do not run on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway.

The news was confirmed at a meeting of Oxenhope Parish Council.

Members of the council acknowledged a message about the cafe, sent to them from the attraction's commercial manager. It said directors of the railway had taken the "hard decision" to only open the cafe in future when trains are operating on the heritage line.

Cllr Derrick Hopkinson responded that he was "sad" to hear of the change.

The K&WVR had previously submitted ambitious plans for a purpose-built, 100-seat cafe at Oxenhope Station, though escalating costs meant this scheme had to be abandoned in 2017.



Councillor Imran Khan



Future House, the former home of Education Bradford, is set to become Bronte Girls Academy



The old Morrisons headquarters site in Girlington, which will become Eden Boys School



Councillor John Pennington