

New era for Belfast as building begins throughout the city

A new era for schools in Belfast was launched last week when the foundation stone was laid at four brand new buildings to be completed in the next two years.

Grosvenor Grammar School, Belfast Model School for Girls, Orangefield Primary School and Ashfield Girls' School are four of seven new schools being built in the city in the first phase a major strategic partnership between the Belfast Education and Library Board and AmeyFMP.

The partnership will refurbish or rebuild many of the BELB's schools, libraries and youth clubs up to a value of up to £400 million.

First Minister Peter Robinson laid the foundation stone at Grosvenor Grammar and Orangefield Primary Schools, Finance Minister Nigel Dodds performed the honour at the Girls' Model, with Vice Chancellor of Queen's University Professor Peter Gregson on duty at Ashfield Girls' School.

BELB Chairperson Jim Rodgers said it was a historic

time for the city and looked forward to new and modern facilities being made available, not just to school pupils, but to communities throughout Belfast.

"For the first time in the history of Belfast we will have seven new schools being built at the same time. We have always endeavoured to provide, not only the very best education, but best facilities for every child in the City of Belfast," said Mr Rodgers.

"The new schools will also provide new facilities for the wider community, for learning and community use both during and beyond the school day.

"We look forward to the completion of this project and I have no doubt that the children, parents and staff will be delighted with the quality of all of these fantastic new centres of learning."

Commenting on behalf of the AmeyFMP consortium, Chris Webster, Chief Operating Officer of

Amey, added: "The laying of the foundation stones is a great milestone for AmeyFMP. It marks the fruition of all the hard work and great ideas brought together since we formed our strategic partnership with the Belfast Education and Library Board.

"We know how essential it is to create the right environment for schools, libraries and youth clubs in Belfast, so it's great to be involved in a project which will make a real difference to the local community."

The other schools in the first phase of the strategic partnership are Belfast Boys' Model, Ravenscroft Nursery School and Glendhu Nursery School.

First Minister Peter Robinson lays the foundation stone at Grosvenor Grammar School





Above, BELB Chairperson Jim Rodgers, Ashfield Girls' School pupils Erin Charteris and Emma Feeny, BOGs Chairperson Jenny McKeown, Amey Executive Director Martin Channon, Vice Chancellor of QUB, Professor Peter Gregson, pupil Jan Tullin and BELB Chief Executive David Cargo. Right, Finance Minister Nigel Dodds chats to Girls' Model pupils Rebekah Kirk and Sheena Mann. Below: BELB Chairperson Jim Rodgers, Principal Ernie Long, BELB Chief Executive David Cargo, Amey Executive Director Martin Channon, First Minister Peter Robinson and Chairperson of the Board of Governors Alec Johnston at Orangefield PS.

