



United Learning Trust
The best in everyone

Press Release
February 2009

DAVID WILSON CONSTRUCTION CENTRE LAYS FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

David Wilson has given his backing and name to the new David Wilson Construction Centre at Northampton Academy, which was declared officially open in February 2009.

Made possible by a £100,000 donation from the David Wilson Foundation, the new purpose-built Centre gives students the perfect opportunity to study the three main trades – bricklaying, plumbing and carpentry – in a realistic working environment with all of the tools and equipment linked to each trade available to them.

Already 70 students are being put through their paces, with the numbers set to double next year. Vocationally based courses delivered by the Centre include the City and Guilds Level 1 Introductory Certificate in Basic Construction Skills, with students taught by staff from Moulton College. In addition to Academy students, the Centre is also used by other schools from across east Northampton.

Endorsing the new Centre, David Wilson said: “A key aim of the David Wilson Foundation is to help young people acquire skills for their future. This new Construction Centre is the perfect example of that aspiration in action, giving young people an ideal introduction into the construction industry and the skills needed to succeed.”

Commenting on the early success of the Centre, Mark Swainson, Northampton Academy's Programme Leader for Design Technology said: "The David Wilson Construction Centre has given our students and those from neighbouring schools an exciting opportunity to follow a programme in construction, which would not have been possible without the support of The David Wilson Foundation.

"Not only will students develop knowledge and understanding as they work towards their qualifications, but they will also gain skills that will prove invaluable in their future careers."

Northampton Academy Principal, Peter Hullah, said: "We are very grateful to The David Wilson Foundation in helping to make this Construction Centre a reality, which is already giving our students an invaluable insight into the world of work and will help to provide industry with skilled and determined future employees."

Picture caption: David Wilson (centre) demonstrates his trowelling skills to Northampton Academy student James Martin (Year 10), watched by Academy Principal Peter Hullah.