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13 September 2005

PRESS RELEASE

New Head for the John Madejski Academy

The Reading-based John Madejski Academy has appointed Catherine Shaw as its new Principal.

Catherine takes up her post as the new Principal of the John Madejski Academy from 1 September 2005. She has been working alongside the architects and project team for the last three months and will continue to do so until the Academy opens in 2006.

She said: "This is an amazing opportunity for the young people of Reading, they deserve to have something very special. I feel very privileged to be part of this new sports academy, sports being one of my passions. My aim with the commitment of the whole community, staff, students and parents is to make the John Madejski Academy an outstanding school; a school that serves its community. The task ahead is both challenging and awesome."

Catherine was nominated by a parent of her previous school and won the National Teachers Award 2005 for Head teacher of the Year for Secondary Schools in the south of England.

The citation reads:

In her role as Head at Rossmore Community College in Poole, Catherine was more than head of a school, she was a catalyst for change. She re-energised a whole community and created a place where young people and adults could learn at the same facilities. As a true leader and innovator, Catherine brought together a wide variety of agencies, including those not necessarily seen as traditional school partners, to create a fantastic centre for education.

Catherine's vision is to make the school the heart of the community, a place where all individuals in it are valued and nurtured. And that applies to her staff too.

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The announcement comes as building for the new Academy is underway, and plans for the new school are being finalised. Scheduled to open in September 2006 in the existing Thamesbridge College buildings, the Academy sponsored by John Madejski, Chairman of Reading Football Club, will then move into a brand new high-tech building on the same site in January 2007.

Sponsor John Madejski said: "Catherine brings a wealth of experience to the Academy and truly believes in promoting excellence in all aspects of school life. We believe the Academy will excel under her leadership and guidance."

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Further information

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