

First Minister visit to new Boroughmuir High School highlights building programme



The First Minister visited the new Boroughmuir High School early this morning to highlight the building programme across Scotland. Twenty nine newly built or refurbished school buildings will open to pupils across Scotland during this academic year.

The new schools are part of the Scottish Government's £1.8 billion Schools for the Future programme, and a total of 112 schools will be rebuilt or refurbished by 2020.

This will be the highest number of school buildings to open in any one year since the programme began in 2009.

The announcement comes on the same day the First Minister unveils her 2016/17 Programme for Government later at Holyrood.

Speaking ahead of her visit to see the construction work underway at one of two new schools being constructed in Edinburgh the First Minister said:

"Today we will publish our Programme for Government – an ambitious plan to improve the lives of people across Scotland.

"Education is at the heart of our plans, and I am committed to doing all I can to improve the life chances of every child and young person. Ensuring children are able to learn in new, modern, fit for purpose surroundings is a crucial part of this.

“By the end of this parliament we will have delivered 112 new or refurbished schools across every local authority in Scotland – more than double the number envisaged when the Schools for the Future programme started.

“These new school building projects also provide an important boost to local economies through the creation of construction jobs and apprenticeships. This is key to our commitment to boost the Scottish economy through infrastructure investment. Last month, I announced £100 million spending on infrastructure in this financial year and later today, I’ll also outline the key priorities for my government in the year ahead. It is a strong programme that will deliver the very best for Scotland. I will set out the details of that later today.”

Sadly although this is very much news which affects Edinburgh, we were not allowed to join the Boroughmuir tour this morning as it was for broadcast media only. We hope to bring you some images of the new school just as soon as we can organise a tour!