Excitement about the prospect of the new teaching facilities including lecture improvement the campus, and will create pace and quality at LSE.’

For others who will follow. Something of this scale will dramatically change and improve the quality of the student experience at the School, for my children and the philanthropic contributions of more than 300 parents through the Friends contribution with over £1 million allocated to name the alumni lecture theatre.

Gifts of £10,000 or more and five gifts of £1 million or more, including a recent philanthropic support towards the New Academic Building. This includes over 65 countries across the world, reflecting the diversity of the wider LSE community.

The philanthropic contributions of more than 300 parents through the Friends gift of £2.5 million from alumni Arif and Fayeeza Naqvi to name the large lecture theatres and break-out areas.

Nigel Williams (right), BIC Monetary Economics 1977, Switzerland, said: ‘The New Academic Building will not only provide outstanding teaching facilities, but also contemporary meeting rooms and social spaces for students to meet to discuss and exchange ideas outside of the lecture theatre. These new facilities will enable even more talented students from across the world to benefit from the opportunities and experiences that an LSE education can provide.’

Most strikingly, there is a clear awareness that the new building is a big step forward for the School and one that is badly needed. Richard Karl Goetz (right), General Counsel 1963, Development Committee, North American Advisory Board, said: ‘The New Academic Building is perhaps the most ambitious and significant enhancement of the LSE campus to date. It’s size, location and architectural features and developments will enhance the School’s presence and connect it closely with its surroundings. It will also provide an integral element of infrastructure to bring together previously fragmented departments and play a key role in the long-term strategic planning for the LSE campus.’

What is the project timetable?

The current date for handing the building over to the School is 5 September 2007 and was conducted by chairman of the Court of Governors Lord Grabiner who filled in the last piece of floor slab on the eighth floor to symbolise the fact that the highest point of construction had now been reached.

Work on the interior of the building began in December 2007 and will continue until completion.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?
• Completion of fit-out including IT and Telecoms rooms
• Arrival of LSE staff
• Furniture procurement
• Moves and operational implementation planning
• User consultation
• Completion of BREEAM assessment
• Moves into the building to take place throughout September.

Alumni and friends contribution

The New Academic Building has been supported by alumni, friends, trusts and foundations, staff, parents, corporations and legacy gifts from more than 20 countries across the world, reflecting the diversity of the wider LSE community.

To date, alumni and friends have contributed more than £10 million of philanthropic support towards the New Academic Building. This includes over 65 gifts of £10,000 or more and five gifts of £1 million or more, including a recent gift of £2.5 million from alumni Arif and Fayeeza Naqvi to name the large lecture theatres and break-out areas.

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What’s in a name?

Council and the Court of Governors requested the building be named the Lincoln’s Inn Fields Building. Approval for this is still awaited from Camden Borough Council, so keep those thinking caps on – they may still be needed.

The postal address has already been changed from 24 Kingsway to 54 Lincoln’s Inn Fields with the postal code WC2A 3JJ.

Winning teams on board

On 1st April 2008, two of the Project teams won prizes at the prestigious Building Awards 2008 – the biggest event in the construction industry’s year. Grimshaws won the Architect of the Year Award and Davis Langdon won of the Consultant of the Year Award. This was hot on the heels of Osborne’s Kevin O’Brien winning a gold medal at the 2007 construction manager of the year awards.
New space for academic departments

The Federated Department of Management, moving to the third, fourth and fifth floors, and the Law Department, moving to the sixth and seventh floors, will both find a new home in the building and the new Grantham Institute on Climate Change and the Environment will make its first home on the fifth floor. How do the departments feel about the move to the NAB and the new environment it will provide?

Back in 2006, the School established the Federated Department of Management to integrate management-related units at LSE and the Department has already won praise for its uniquely sophisticated degree programmes that combine the study of management with the School’s renowned social sciences perspective. Head of department, Professor Saul Estrin said: ‘The Department is honoured to be moving to the new building, not only for the third floors we will occupy, but for the state of the art facilities we and our students will be able to enjoy. It is especially important that the four academic groups within the Department will be located together for the first time from their previous disparate locations and we look forward to the synergies that will provide. The establishment of a Department of Management has been a key element in the School’s strategy for a number of years and the move to the New Academic Building is the crucial final step in its formation.’

The four groups within the Department of Management are:

• Employment Relations and Organisational Behaviour Group (formerly Industrial Relations) who move from Connaught House
• Information Systems and Innovation Group who move from Tower One
• Managerial Economics and Strategy Group (formerly the Interdisciplinary Institute of Management) who move from 20 Kingsway
• Operational Research Group who move from 20 Kingsway.

The Law Department is currently located in the Old Building. A spokesperson for the Department said: ‘One of the main benefits of the Law Department’s move is that it will provide an opportunity for all Law staff to be together in one space. At present, they are based in six separate buildings and hard-to-find Old Building corridors. We are looking forward to the easy interactions that close proximity will offer.’

Lincoln’s Inn Fields is one of the focal points for the legal profession in London so our location there is particularly apt. Our facilities in the new building will include a bespoke moot court room, which will provide a home to our already successful moot room team. That facility will also offer the opportunity to run additional courses for practitioners and so bring together the academic and professional legal worlds.

We are also excited about the possibilities for further public events making use of the building’s lecture spaces. Finally, we are delighted that our new home will provide a much more hospitable welcome to students, from undergraduate to PhD level.’

The recently-formed Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at LSE was established with an extremely generous financial commitment from the Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham Foundation. The Institute will act as an umbrella body for LSE’s contribution to climate change and energy. This will include the work of the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy, established at LSE earlier this year with large-scale funding from the Economic and Social Research Council, and will make LSE a global leader in this area.

‘It is fitting that research of such central relevance to 21st century social science is being introduced in the area around the School now on target to receive ‘excellent’ rating in the BREEAM system is being introduced in the area around the New Academic Building in partnership with Camden Borough Council and Westminster City Council. The work is being synchronised with the main works to the New Academic Building. These measures will include:

• new entrance to Lincoln’s Inn Fields
• new traffic system
• raised junctions between Lincoln’s Inn Fields and Sardinia Street and Lincoln’s Inn Fields and Remnant Street
• additional cycle spaces
• electric vehicle charging bay
• disabled persons’ parking bays
• widening of pavements

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A day in the life of

Kevin O’Brien is senior project manager for Osbourne’s, the main contractor for the New Academic Building project, and has been with the company for about six years. Kevin was asked to work on LSE’s newest building after the successful completion of a challenging project to build a Science Centre for London Metropolitan University.

Q So, what is it like to work on site day-to-day as the senior project manager?

Kevin arrived on site in the morning, I first of all ensure that managers are addressing the tasks and the workforce. My day is mainly taken up with meetings with consultants and sub-contractors, mostly concerning design development and procurement. I would say I spend about 70 per cent of my time in meetings and 30 per cent on site, though the time spent on site increases as the project nears completion.

Q What is enjoyable about working on the project?

Really, the enjoyment comes at the end; seeing the finished product after all the hard work. It is also satisfying to look back at past progress photos – you get stuck by the contrast between where you were and where you are now with the project.

Q What has been difficult about this project?

It has been a challenge adhering the new part of the structure to the existing building. The architects’ design was based on a partial demolition – of the inner core – and so part of the building is entirely new, but not all of it. The atrium has also been designed in an unusual way. Often you have a column which supports it, but in this case there is a truss on the eighth floor which supports the floors below. The fire strategy has been complicated as it makes use of an engineered solution.

Q What have you learnt from this project?

It is relevant to say that it is a high specification building with a range of different layouts and usages. You learn to focus on resolving the issues and getting the job done.

Stop press

School now on target to receive Excellent rating in the BREEAM (Building Research Establishment’s Environmental Assessment Method). The scoring is done as the building is constructed and is cumulative. A score of 70 per cent or over by the end of the process produces an ‘excellent’ rating.