

School helps out with 450 visors for front line NHS workers



Assistant headteacher Dave Ramsey produced the visors using the school's computer-aided design software and laser cutter machine.

Photo: **BMAT STEM** Academy

HUNDREDS of safety visors to protect NHS workers have been produced by an engineering school.

BMAT STEM Academy, in Harlow is producing 450 protective visors for those on the front line dealing with the Coronavirus.

Assistant headteacher Dave Ramsey produced the visors using the school's computer-aided design software and laser cutter machine.

He said: "Princess Alexandra Hospital is one of our big sponsors and does so much for us, so it is nice to

be able to give something back. My partner is a front line NHS worker; it is amazing how many people we know who are working for the NHS.

"This is the whole point of design and technology and engineering. It is about being able to make some-

thing someone can use and then to improve and test and design something else."

The school is liaising with its contacts at Princess Alexandra Hospital to ensure the visors reach those on the front line.

College joins foodbank fundraiser

KIND-HEARTED staff and students at Harlow College have joined a national foodbank fundraising effort.

The college has joined the national FE Foodbank Friday campaign, which sees further education organisations around the country come together to raise money for community foodbanks – many foodbanks are seeing a decline in donations at this challenging time and in need of support.

The college has launched a Go Fund Me page and aims to raise £2,000.

Karen Spencer, principal of Harlow College, said: "Harlow College is proud to support FE Foodbank Friday. We know that in these troubled times people will be facing increased levels of food poverty and that donations to food banks are dropping. We therefore felt it important to do our bit in supporting our community through the current crisis."

Harlow Foodbank relies on the support of residents, businesses and communities to help alleviate poverty and hunger.

To donate to the college's campaign visit: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/harlow-college-foodbank?utm_term=CB55eX24k

Incinerator plans will still go ahead

Other options from environmental group rejected

By **Simon Allin**
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SO-CALLED greener alternatives to a waste-burning power plant have been rejected as unviable by the seven north London boroughs behind the scheme.

The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) will press ahead with plans for a new incinerator in Edmonton – claiming a delay to the project would undermine efforts to tackle the climate emergency.

Environmental group Extinction Rebellion had called for the scheme to be paused so an independent review could be carried out to look at more eco-friendly alternatives.

The campaign group claimed the plant would pump out harmful emissions and – at an overall cost of £1.2 billion – saddle councils with a large debt burden.

But in a letter published on April 21, the NLWA – made up of Enfield, Barnet, Haringey, Waltham Forest, Camden, Hackney and Islington councils – described the alternatives proposed by Extinction Rebellion as "untested and unrealistic".

NLWA chairman Cllr Clyde Loakes says in the letter: "We cannot rely on the unproven, inefficient, unsustainable and frankly ill-informed solutions proposed by Extinction Rebellion for the tonnages we are ultimately responsible for."

"The North London Heat and Power Project continues to be the only sustainable and responsible solution."

The new incinerator at Edmonton EcoPark – lying to the north of the North Circular and west of the River Lee – will process up to 700,000 tonnes of waste a year at peak capacity, while generating electricity and heat for up to 127,000 homes.

According to Cllr Loakes, alternatives to the plant were rigorously analysed as part of the planning process – but each of them was found to have "major limitations".

His letter describes "distributed modular gasification" as "under development and unproven, even on a small scale".

Cllr Loakes claims mechanical biological treatment "increases the carbon footprint of waste treatment and comes at a higher

cost than energy recovery". Another alternative, pyrolysis and gasification, is described as "still unproven at the scale required to treat north London's non-recyclable waste".

He said the new facility would be equivalent to a 215,000-tonne carbon saving when compared to landfill, which is "like taking 110,000 cars off the road every year".

And he said the published analysis "shows categorically that no concentrations of pollutants from the facility will breach any air quality or public health standards".

Cllr Loakes also claimed the project had been "subject to a rigorous and independent planning process, which fully considered environmental factors, alternative options for treating non-recyclable waste and air quality impacts".

Construction of the new incinerator is due to begin in 2022. It will be accompanied by a "resource recovery facility" designed to extract wood, plastics and metal for recycling.

Extinction Rebellion has been approached for comment.