

First Minister John Swinney opens ‘magnificent’ £100m Dundee Greenfield Academy © DC Thomson

Greenfield has already welcomed pupils through its doors but a special ceremony was held on Wednesday to recognise the city's newest school.



First Minister John Swinney with Greenfield Academy headteacher Johnny Lothian and school captains Noah Paterson and Salimatah Drammeh. Image: Dundee City Council

Dundee's new £100 million Greenfield Academy campus has been praised as “magnificent” by First Minister John Swinney.

Mr Swinney was in Dundee on Wednesday to ‘officially’ open the new secondary school and the wider Drumgeith Community Campus.

The new school is a merger between Craigie High School and Braeview Academy and includes a gymnasium, dance studio and floodlit 3G football and rugby pitches.

Although Greenfield has already welcomed pupils through its doors, a special ceremony was held on Wednesday to recognise the city's newest school.

‘Magnificent new facility’

Speaking to The Courier afterwards, the First Minister spoke of the challenges faced by the local authority and the Scottish Government in making the project a reality.

“It’s been enormously difficult because we’ve seen construction (hit by) the combination of Brexit, Covid, and then ultimately the invasion of Ukraine”, he said.

“The invasion of Ukraine led to a massive spike in energy prices and in raw materials and you can’t build a school campus without energy and raw materials.

“But the partnership between the government and the city council has worked its way through all of that.”



John Swinney unveiling the school plaque. Image: Dundee City Council.

He added: “We stand here at the opening of a magnificent new facility successfully delivered in partnership.

“It’s an absolutely outstanding construction and it’s a huge enhancement of educational facilities for the pupils now of [Greenfield Academy](#).



The opening ceremony featured speeches and music. Image: Dundee City Council.

“But it’s also the opening up of a whole range of new enhanced community facilities in the community campus.

“I’m delighted that we’ve been able to work with Dundee City Council to bring such a model to Dundee and for the communities to benefit from those facilities.”

First Minister praised city collaboration

During the opening ceremony, Mr Swinney was presented with a Greenfield Academy tie – which he says he will wear during Thursday’s [First Minister’s questions](#).

It was designed by S4 pupil Eilidh Shearer, who worked alongside Dundee designer Hayley Scanlan at a V&A workshop earlier in the year.

This collaboration, the First Minister says, demonstrates the value of the museum to the wider city.



John Swinney addressed pupils and staff at the opening ceremony. Image: Dundee City Council.

He said: “Listening to the outreach from the V&A, they’ve worked with the school pupils to help with the process of weaving the school community together.

“And to design that into a beautiful tie, it’s an illustration about how the community can be brought together with the benefit of the design skills and strength of the V&A.



The First Minister got a tour of the school, where he spoke to pupils. Image: Dundee City Council.

“The V&A was always conceived of as a facility to say to the world, there was another reason to come to Dundee, and I think the V&A has proven that.

“But it was also to give communities a relationship with the V&A and to bring that closer.

“The school opening today has demonstrated exactly how that’s been undertaken.”