

**Press release****For immediate release****London Met to press ahead with new teaching and learning centre in Islington****New four-storey building to feature latest learning technology****Part of multi-million pound ‘One Campus, One Community’ investment project**

London Metropolitan University is to move forward on its plans to create a brand new teaching and learning centre at the heart of its Holloway campus, having successfully attained planning permission from Islington Council.

The University will transform its current 2-storey J Block building into a vibrant 4-storey teaching and learning facility, with a number of exciting features to benefit students, staff and local residents.

Designed by the award-winning practice Design Engine Architects, the new facility will host 25 teaching rooms installed with the latest teaching technology, and a variety of social learning spaces.

Plans also include a new cafe with the capacity to seat over 200 people, developed for the enjoyment of students, staff and the local community.

As part of the University’s initiative to strengthen ties with the local people, the renovated building will be accessible from a new public square, designed by the renowned landscape architecture practice Gustafson Porter + Bowman. The square promises to become a landmark space in Islington that will transform not only the campus, but the local area as well.

Proposals for the project have received an overwhelmingly positive response from students, staff and local residents who were engaged in consultation as plans developed in the late spring.

Fashion Marketing and Journalism student, Barbara Sike, said: “I am so excited that this project is happening. The new facilities will really enhance our learning experience while enabling all students at London Met to come together, which is important to us.

“It will also give us students the opportunity to interact more with our local community, having an open space where we can host events and exhibitions. I think it’s going to do amazing things for our community as a whole.”

Professor John Raftery, Vice-Chancellor of London Met, said: “We are excited about our plans to create a new Teaching and Learning Building and public space in Islington – both of which will significantly transform and enhance the experience of

our students, staff and local residents.

“It is important to us that our local neighbours feel they are a part of the London Met community. Collaboration is one of our core values and we believe that creating a safe and welcoming environment in which our students, staff and local neighbours can gather, will create great benefits for all of us and the wider borough.

“This development will greatly enhance our students’ learning and teaching and shows how serious we are about investing in education here in Holloway.”

Having now received the approval of both Islington Council and London Met’s Board of Governors, works are set to begin in spring 2018. The teaching and learning centre will open in summer 2019.

The new building is part of London Met’s multi-million pound One Campus, One Community project that will see the establishment of a unified single campus in Islington. The new centre represents an investment of £28m.

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### **Notes to editors**

Images: Artist impressions showing design concepts for all four floors of teaching and learning centre courtesy of Design Engine Architects.

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### **About London Metropolitan University**

London Metropolitan University has been providing education to people from all backgrounds since 1848, with the creation of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Working Men. Six schools teach cutting-edge, relevant courses across the arts, sciences, business, law and humanities. Accelerator – London Met’s specialist business incubator – helps graduates get their enterprises up and running and was named among the Top Five ‘Most Active’ accelerators in Europe in 2015, highlighting its contribution to London’s booming start-up industry.

London Met is home to world-leading academics who regularly give expert comment to the media. The University scored well in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, being ranked 4th in the country for Area Studies and performing strongly in Education and Social Studies.

The University is strongly focused on employability. In 2017, London Met recorded its highest ever graduate employment score, with 95% of all 2016 graduates in work or further study six months after graduation. It was also ranked above all five Russell Group universities in London for teaching quality in 2016.

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