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Historic White House set for transformation as plans approved for new health hub



A new health and wellbeing hub is opening in the heart of the local community.

As part of an exciting partnership between Harrow College, the NHS and voluntary groups, Headstone Road Practice will relocate to the White House, a Grade II listed building on the College's campus in Harrow-on-the-Hill.

The new hub has been designed around a neighbourhood health model that brings together primary care, mental health, social care, voluntary sector organisations and education partners. The White House will include a broader range of staff beyond traditional GPs to provide a wider range of services.

As well as ensuring patients can access care closer to home, the hub will also allow Harrow College healthcare students to move beyond classroom learning and experience real-world integrated care.

With a long history stretching back over 200 years, including previous use as a school, work carried out at the White House will ensure that this remarkable building is brought back into use for the benefit of the community, while respecting and protecting its heritage.

Dating back to the early 19th century, the house originally had extensive grounds, a walled garden and an orchard, as well as stables and coach houses.

The house was named Lowlands by its most famous occupant, the barrister Benjamin Rotch, who spent his early years in Paris during the French Revolution. He later became MP for Knaresborough and Deputy Lieutenant for Middlesex, and earned considerable wealth from his work as an inventor. Benjamin lived in the house with his wife, Isabella.

When she died in 1909 aged 100, Isabella left Lowlands to Harrow School, which in turn offered it to the county for educational purposes. The house became the original Harrow County School for Girls, which opened its doors in 1914.

The site was extensively developed as the school grew, including demolishing the gate lodge and service buildings and the construction of a large new school building.

Throughout the 20th century, various schools and colleges were amalgamated with the girls' school, eventually resulting in Harrow College, which was established in 1999.

Harrow College, part of HRUC (Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges), is now working with the NHS and Headstone Road Practice on finalising the details surrounding the project. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Note to editors: Following a merger in 2023, HRUC (Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges) has rapidly evolved into a thriving educational hub with three colleges and a strong apprenticeship provision. The diverse and aspiring college group now serves nearly 15,000 learners across west and south London, offering a range of courses, including A-Levels, vocational programmes, T-Levels, higher education courses and apprenticeships. The College group also proudly supports over 850 learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), providing tailored programmes and internships to help them thrive.