

EXCEL GLORY

Centre wins UK award

ExCeL London has been crowned UK venue of the year at this year's Association of Event Organisers Excellence Awards.

The venue's owner, Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC), was also named international venue of the year.

The accolade follows a string of awards in recent months. This latest was collected by ExCeL managing director David Pegler.

He said: "This is another fantastic achievement for the team at ExCeL and ADNEC."

"Coinciding with us marking the International Convention Centre's (ICC) first birthday, this is a genuine testament to the world-class facilities we offer and highlights how the new space can increase event organisers' meeting and conference event options even further."

Held on July 1 in the ICC Capital Hall, the largest banqueting space in London, the AEO Excellence Awards is the flagship ceremony for the live events and exhibition industry.

Attended by more than 1,200 professionals, the awards have been called the industry's own version of the Oscars.

FREE SCHOOL

Funding deal means college will be able to open its doors

Sixty children are set to be welcomed to new institution for the start of forthcoming academic year

by Sarah Shaffi
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A "free school" in Docklands will open its doors this September after the Department for Education (DfE) signed a funding agreement.

Canary Wharf College is due to welcome 60 students into its Reception, Year One and Year Two classes at the start of the next academic year.

Now that the DfE has entered into a funding agreement, refurbishment will be carried out on the old Dockland Settlement Centre, where the school will be based.

Parents

The school has been founded by four parents and lead proposer Sarah Counter, who will also take on the role of principal of Canary Wharf College.

She said: "We are delighted the government has signed the funding agreement. The DfE's final approval recognises the importance and vital role the college will have



Trustees of Canary Wharf College including Sarah Counter, third left

in helping to alleviate the high demand for school places on the Isle of Dogs.

"I would like to thank our local community for their notable ongoing support; we are very pleased to be working

closely with the Dockland Settlement Centre. The centre is a valuable community asset and we are delighted to be able to start the free school for the community in part of the old building."

The school will have a Christian ethos. All places for September are filled.

For more information visit www.canarywharfcollege.co.uk

CHOIR



The choir in action

Debut show by singers

Members of Canary Wharf Choir have performed their first concert.

The choir, made up of workers in the business and shopping district, appeared at Canada Square Park on July 5.

Singers from Wharf-based companies including Barclays Capital, Clifford Chance, Credit Suisse, Thomson Reuters and Morgan Stanley were joined by West End performer Michael Cantwell.

Musical director John Tripp said: "The choir brings people together from all around the Canary Wharf community. We are doing it for fun, but we are also serious about putting on a really good, polished performance."

The choir will perform again in the autumn.

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