A traditional sod cutting ceremony will mark the start of the building of Hampton Gardens Secondary School.

The new secondary school is a joint project between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council and is due to open its doors in Peterborough's new Hampton Gardens development in September 2017.

The new school will provide places for 1,500 students, including 300 sixth form students.

Hampton Academies Trust, which runs the nearby Hampton College, will manage the school which will serve a catchment area that includes Hampton, as well as the nearby village of Yaxley.

The building works are being carried out by Carillion Construction Limited.

The cost of the £21.8 million project is mainly covered by a grant from the Education Funding Agency to pay for the build and technical advisor costs, with remaining costs to be shared by the city council and county council.

Councillor John Holdich, Leader of the Council and cabinet member for education, skills and university, said: "I am very pleased to see the building of this school get officially underway.

"The school will eventually accommodate 1,500 students in Years 7 to 13, but will initially welcome Year 7 students in 2017 and will grow a year group each year until it reaches capacity.

"This project involves us jointly working with Cambridgeshire County Council as we continue our dedication to providing additional school places to meet the ever increasing demand in Peterborough, and its neighbouring areas like Yaxley."

The school will include a multi-use games area and a 3G all-weather sports pitch, which will be made available for community use.

Executive headteacher of Hampton Academies Trust, Helen Price, said: "We are delighted to see the plans for the new school being realised, now that construction has started. Hampton Gardens Secondary School will provide a well-equipped, exceptional learning environment for students for many years to come.

"We are excited to be providing a new school for the communities of Yaxley and the new development of Hampton East. We anticipate that Hampton College students and local residents will benefit from shared sixth form provision and access to state of the art facilities."

Philip Wakefield, managing director of Carillion Building, said: "We look forward to working with Peterborough City Council in the months to come to create this state of the art school which will benefit the local community for many years to come."

Councillor Mac McGuire, who represents Norman Cross on Cambridgeshire County Council, added: "This is an exciting project, the first of its kind for us in terms of joint working between ourselves and Peterborough City Council. Improved secondary school provision for the northwest of the county - and in particular the Yaxley area - is something I have campaigned on for a number of years. This joint provision will go a long way to meeting the ambitions of many in our community."

Prospective parents can already register their interest and sign up for updates about the school's development by visiting the Hampton Gardens website (http://www.hamptongardens.org.uk/).