

School Expansion Update

Edition 2021 #1

As we start the New Year, I am writing to provide an update on our current expansion project.

Whilst the country has been placed in lockdown, work on the development is still continuing. Phase 2 is complete and the Old School has been handed back to us for use. A newsletter from Speller Metcalfe will be issued next week, which includes photographs. Although this space will be used primarily for the performing arts and classroom activities, the rooms also lend themselves to much needed group work and meeting spaces.

The first 2 phases outlined below are complete and we have now moved on to Phase 3. A great deal of internal demolition work has taken place as well as highways works to Hall Road.

Phase 1

Construct new hall, new car park, learning resource room extending the current library and outdoor Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

Phase 2

Reconstruct the dining room and kitchens into a performing arts block.

Phase 3

Reconstruct the hall, music room and tech room into Year 6 and Reception classrooms and toilets.

Phase 4

Reconstruct the administration area and construct new entrance at the front of the school and new staffroom.

Works over the next two weeks include:-

- block up and form new openings
- install new drainage
- remove and replace external windows
- internal mechanical and electrical works

I understand that local residents have also been issued with a planning letter/email from GCC outlining some proposed variations to the project. I have requested that these are shared in a much clearer format so that they can be fully understood. For your information, they are as follows:-

The new application is to vary the conditions on the previous planning approval for the scheme, obtained in September 2019. The changes are as follows:

- Changes to the cladding on the new hall: Where previously we had planned to use a dark grey rainscreen cladding on a small area between the existing building and the hall, the application is to approve the use of the same timber as on the remainder of the new hall. This change is due to the availability of materials.
- Changes to the canopy on the new hall by the visitor entrance: This was originally intended to be an extension of the main roof but is now a standalone canopy.

- Changes to the Highways scheme; Following the Highways technical approval process, the team have been advised that the crossing point on Church Road is omitted from the scheme, and that additional bollards are included.
- Changes to the proposed site plan; The visitor parking layout has been revised to be more efficient, and an additional pedestrian gate has been included by the main entrance.

More to follow next week.

Best wishes
Sam Porter