

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

Chair of Governors: Mrs H Baker



QEGS Academy Sponsors:

J.C. Bamford Excavators Ltd. - The Woodroffe Benton Foundation
- The Old Ashburnian Society - The Old Trust (founders 1585)

28th January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

School Expansion

The school has now applied for planning permission for the first phase of our proposed building expansion and I, as Chair of the school's Governors, thought it would be helpful to let you have some more information about these plans.

Mr Garrity wrote to you last term to advise how the school is growing, both as a result of its successful results and breadth of curriculum, as well as increased numbers of pupils living within the catchment as housing developments progress locally. The school makes very effective use of all available space but it has long been recognised that additional classrooms and facilities are needed.

The expansion is planned for existing buildings, designed to gain maximum benefit from current facilities while targeting the funds available to best use. The current planned project involves a significant extension to the Boothby classroom/changing room block, the newer of the two buildings at Boothby Meadows, where the Sixth Form students are based. The new provision will be two storeys, and will provide multiple extra classrooms, flexible in nature to cater for all size groups and utilising modern technology and teaching methods, as well as enhanced and increased sports changing facilities. The classrooms and changing rooms will be used by the whole school, not just Sixth Form.

There will be also be additional catering facilities to ease the pressure on the present canteen and to prevent unnecessary foot traffic across the Green Road. The car parking area for that site will be improved too, with increased spaces and a better layout. The plans submitted can be seen on the Derbyshire Dales District Council website under planning application reference 18/01318/FUL.

The project is being undertaken jointly with Ashbourne Rugby Union Football Club (ARUFC) who currently use the school changing facilities and playing fields. They are making a significant financial contribution but the majority of the funds are being sourced from the s.106 contributions that have been agreed with the Council from each housing developer, as the local population grows. We have received £700,000 to date from these schemes and therefore are well advanced in our plans and consultations. We are due a further £1 million from developments currently being built but the legal agreements state that this money does not get transferred to the school until another 2-3 years' time, when the developers are off site and all the houses sold.

We want to start building in 2019 in order to provide the enhanced facilities as soon as possible, in order to be ready for the increased numbers, as well as to improve the school for our current students. We are therefore exploring options to access earlier funding and would be very interested to hear from anyone who may be able to help in this regard. Financial assistance could be made in a number of different ways, by way of donation or otherwise. Some of the school's previous sponsors have been generous enough to assist in various philanthropic ways in the past and their legacies will always be remembered.

If you would like more information or can offer support for this project, please contact me via my school email Baker@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Helen Baker
Chair of Governors