



Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018

## RE: Buildings Projects Update

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to keep you up-to-date with the exciting news relating to our on-going work to develop the site here at St Mary's Catholic School. In particular I am writing to communicate continuity of facilities and 'normal' service at all times during the refurbishment to come, e.g. classrooms, toilets, continuation of lessons etc. However, in order to facilitate this longer-term normal service, we may need to partially close the site for one day – please see below. We are in the middle of a three-part building programme that we believe to be the single biggest development of the school in its 122 year history:

**Stage one** – Science refurbishment, now complete.

With the help of the Diocese of Westminster we have recently completed the refurbishment of 6 science laboratories, as well as the conversion of one ordinary classroom into a laboratory. This brings the total number of labs up to eight. This allows us to have all science lessons (including 6<sup>th</sup> form) in specialist science facilities.

**Stage two** – is the external and internal refurbishment of classrooms K1 to K10 and associated areas.

We expect to 'break ground' on these classrooms during the second half of the Summer Term. This will involve some re-rooming of lessons, but since we will have released Year 11 and Year 13 students, we have the capacity to accommodate those classes elsewhere in the school without any need for temporary accommodation.

A new focus of the plans is the re-design and renovation of the student toilets. Please be assured though that even before the work begins we are working on a programme of ways to ensure that we are still able to provide educational and hygienic facilities that meet the needs and expectations of our school community.

In particular, on the provision of toilets, we have recently refreshed our contractor who provides toilet-cleaning services, as well as ensuring they are fully operational and stocked at all times. If you have any concerns in that area, please email me directly at [a.mcmillan@stmarys.net](mailto:a.mcmillan@stmarys.net)

**Stage three** – is the refurbishment of the Mansion and Victorian Block. More news on this will be forthcoming later this term, and this will be the final and biggest part of the refurbishment (approximately £3million).

I'm sure you can agree that these are exciting times. I would also like to take the opportunity to give you advance warning that it is like that we may need to close the school for one day early in the Summer Term in order to 'clear' the K Block in readiness for the building work. We believe this is unavoidable given the scale of work that is due to take place, and the number of rooms and staff that will be involved. We think that it is preferable to condense the 'moving' disruption into one day, rather than extend it out over a longer period of time. The date of this is dependent on the timeline of building work, but be assured we will contact you as soon as possible if and when this goes ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mr McMillan (Assistant Head, Operations)