



## The New Build – Frequently asked Questions

*Thank you to the parents/carers who have been in contact with us. We have been gathering the questions that you have emailed/phoned in and, thought that it may be helpful to put together our responses.*

### **Q: Will the build actually happen?**

**A:** Yes, the permanent site is secure and the planning committee's decision is secure. The contractor has been appointed - Bowmer and Kirkland and design plans are detailed including furniture layouts. The prep work has already started on the site.

### **Q: Why didn't we know sooner?**

**A:** On the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the DfE confirmed the arrangements for a delay. On the 13<sup>th</sup> March, information was shared with staff, students, parents/carers, future families, resident groups, LB Hounslow. Prior to this timescales remained vague.

### **Q: When will the new building be ready?**

**A:** The proposed date for the building is Spring 2021. The DfE have built in leeway / slippage time by saying that the children will transition into the new building in the summer of 2021. The summer term will provide students and staff time to familiarise and orientate themselves with the brand new building whilst still accessing 390 London Road and the other site. This is to ensure the transition is very smooth and learning time remains unaffected.

### **Q: Why has this happened? What is s106?**

**A:** The s106 is the reason for this delay. The reason the s106 has taken so long is that there are far more parties involved than just the Council and the DfE, who all have legal teams working on how the s106 agreement affects their land holding. There are a number of issues around access routes, highway works and other concerns which require legal agreement from all parties. Subsequently, getting mutual agreement on all of the items within the s106 is far more complicated than is ordinarily the case and has in turn taken a lot longer than it ordinarily would.

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**Q: Who is dealing with the S106 and why are they not being held responsible?**

**A:** The s106 is being negotiated between the DfE, LB Hounslow, Tesco, The Frogna Trust and Goals. All parties are working to try to resolve all of the issues as expediently as possible.

**Q: So where will my child be taught?**

**A: Current parents** – Students will be taught at 390 London Road until they are in year 9, accessing Old Isleworthians for PE and Sport.

**New parents** – Students joining us this September 2019 will be taught at 390 London Road until they are in year 8, accessing Old Isleworthians for PE and Sport.

**Parents with children starting in September 2020** – These students will be taught in a local school. Details of this will be confirmed shortly.

**Q: How will you ensure that the students continue to gain a great experience at the school?**

**A:** No matter where we are located we always strive for excellence and this will continue. During the time we are on a split site we will insist on:

- **Strong leadership** – From September 2019 we will have an increase in the number of staff with Academy-wide responsibilities. This will continue in September 2020. In addition, we will ensure that there is a strong senior leader located at the other site during this period. Now that we are aware of the split site we can start training this member of staff to take responsibility. The current Headteacher will remain overall responsible for the students across these two buildings.
- **Small school ethos** – This year we have very much enjoyed getting to know the students very well. By remaining 'small' for 3 years this will help us continue this approach.
- **Excellent induction** – Student and staff induction is key. It provides opportunities for us to talk about our values, our behaviour management systems and what we expect from learning.

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- **Systems** – Every time we set up a new system or procedure we always consider it in our current context and also, how we will ensure that it is sustainable moving forward. For example, accessing PAM, Parent Pay will be the same no matter the location of your child.
- **Early recruitment** – As we operate two sites there will be a need for some increases in staff. We are in a great position to start recruiting early. We are fully staff now for Sep 2019 and we will continue to recruit early on in each of the academic years.
- **Student leadership, House Competitions and Sky** – The students have really enjoyed the experiences that Sky and the House system have had to offer. These experiences will continue. With careful planning we will also be able to put such events on so that students in the two separate buildings are able to mix with one another whether that be a Sports Day or Talent Show.

#### **Q: How will you manage two different sites?**

**A:** There are many examples of schools which run split sites but retain a strong ethos and culture.

We will continue to see ourselves as one school – our culture, ethos, education and experiences will be the same for students no matter where they are located.

To enable us to manage the two sites effectively we will ensure:

- **Additional leadership** - As we operate two sites there will be a need for some increases in staff. This will be budgeted for and we will recruit to these positions early.
- **Effective timetabling of staff** – This is feasible and will be managed carefully so that staff are located at a particular site for a substantial period of time during the day if not for the whole day. This will ensure that movement can be minimised and that staff are settled to teach their lessons effectively.
- **Organisations of breaks and lunch** – With an increase in staff we will be able to organise breaks and lunchtimes very differently. For those at 390 London Road we had already planned for a split lunchtimes so that students in the different year groups eat and play at different times.



- **Calendaring events** – Excellent organisation will support the smooth running of the two sites.
- **Learning from others** – Highly established schools and new schools have operated split sites for many years. At Bolder we have extensive networks and will talk with school leaders of these schools. This will help us further to think about how we organise ourselves as we will be able to learn lessons from them.

**Q: What will be the impact on my child's learning and education?**

**A:** Excellent teaching and learning is our number one priority. And, this will always remain the case.

Once we have finalised arrangements for the additional temporary facilities for the 2020/2021 academic year, discussions will take place about any specialist space requirements there might be for Year 9 students so that they experience subjects such as Food Technology and Design Technology.

**Q: How will this impact on students GCSE Options?**

**A:** Students will begin their GCSE studies in year 10 (in the new building). There is much research as well as concern by the DfE and OFSTED that schools have narrowed the curriculum too early and that schools should not start GCSE courses in year 9. The new OFSTED framework very much supports a 2 year KS4.

**Q: What access will my child have to specialist spaces / courses –**

**A: Use of a theatre** – Most Drama lessons in a secondary school do not access a stage or lighting unless there is a performance. Drama is going to be introduced as a separate subject next year for all students. We also have a very good relationship with West Thames College and will hire their theatre space for future performances if this is necessary. We are also able to access Sky Cinema.

**ICT** – Each year we increase our access to technology and this will continue. We plan to increase technology using laptops over this period of time. We will have enough of these to support students' learning appropriately. We also have a highly skilled Computer Science teacher joining us in September 2019 to support us in developing this curriculum. This will ensure students are ready for GCSE Computer Science (if they wish to study this.)

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**DT / Food** – We have already started looking ahead at the GCSE options – Product Design and Art and Design will be the Technology courses offered. These courses are more modern than the traditional resistant material courses and are not reliant on heavy machinery. Food Technology is also likely to be one of the GCSE options on offer. This year and next year, we will continue our relationship with Sky and the Healthy Eating programmes that we offer.

Furthermore, once we have finalised arrangements with the other school we will be talking with them about accessing specialist areas to use specialist rooms.

**Q: What about sports facilities?**

**A:** Students will continue to access Old Isleworthians and if we feel we need to increase the use of this for lunchtimes we will explore this. We are also now investigating the use of the large sports hall at the top of Wood Lane. We work closely with outside agencies to deliver other sporting opportunities and already take our students to fixtures off-site.

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