

Dear Parents,

Earlier this week, Cambridge City Council's planning committee gave unanimous consent to the Stephen Perse Foundation's ambitious plans for the Senior School's Union Road site.

These aim to build on the already exceptional education offered throughout the Foundation to create outstanding learning spaces for current and future students. We have worked closely with an excellent design team, headed up by architects Chadwick Dryer Clarke. Their brief is to develop the site to embrace our learning ethos, whilst at the same time achieving the maximum amount of indoor and outdoor space.

Throughout the Foundation's history, the school sites have evolved to provide the educational spaces needed to best fulfil our vision for learning. For example, the Senior School was the first girls' school in the country to install a science laboratory. This commitment to innovation, which meets the needs of the curriculum, has continued into the 21st Century. It is illustrated by this week's news as well as the building of the Hall and Dining room, Visual Arts Centre and Sixth Form College and the creation of innovation hubs to facilitate collaborative learning.

This new phase of development includes building a sports hall and activity studio. Specifically the project will be divided into 3 phases:

Phase 1: Development of a new five-storey building with



a rooftop sports pitch (a first for Cambridge!), a Sport England-standard four court sports hall, an activity space with viewing area, 10 classrooms and additional learning hubs

Phase 2: Creation of a performing arts wing adjoining the main school hall

Phase 3: Refurbishment of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) building

However, one of the most exciting parts of the project will be the spaces left behind: the indoor and outdoor spaces where the students will relax and play. A clear landscape strategy developed with The Landscape Partnership has ensured that every available area of external space will be attractively designed and given over to the pupils. Integral to the development are a quiet library courtyard, a run-



Join us for a virtual tour of the new build by clicking the video above

Shown in these images - the rooftop sports pitch and sports hall



around area, a stage and a rooftop Multi Use Games Area.

Keeping disruption to both the school and its neighbours to a minimum throughout the build has been one of the key elements of the design brief. This has been factored into the building through the selection of materials and build processes, for example, cross laminated timber and “silent’ piling.

However, we are keen to embrace the building project as a learning opportunity, rather than a hurdle to be overcome. There are endless ways in which the building works will integrate with the Curriculum and broader learning. We want to use this project to inspire a future generation of architects, scientists, engineers, designers, sportspeople... the list goes on. The project is the basis of our two years of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Technology), an “Inspire Me” programme that will run across the Foundation, and students have already been significantly involved in the planning of it.

The students will also gain at every stage through this building phase as we will be refurbishing the science block this academic year. The work on the major part of the project to build the Sports and teaching block is expected to last one academic year with completion in August 2017. Based on current plans, the work will commence with the demolition of the long corridor and two classrooms alongside Union Road at Easter 2016. There will then be a hiatus until the end of the examination period in June 2016, when the basement dig will commence.

We are currently going through the tender process with building contractors and more detailed plans and timings will be made available once the contractor has been engaged. Bidwells have been appointed as Project Managers to oversee the build, having significant local experience of similar ‘live’ projects.

This week’s approval for our plans is fantastic news for students, staff, parents and indeed everyone involved with the Stephen Perse Foundation. I would like to thank the many parents who have expressed their support for the project and am delighted that it’s now full steam ahead!

Best wishes,
Jenny Neild (Bursar)

“We aim to prepare our students for the future, not just for their own good but for the benefit of the community, too. This decision will enable us to continue to do just that. While it is naturally good news for us, it is also great news for Cambridge as a whole.”

- Tricia Kelleher, Principal

More concept images and sketches are available on our architect’s website - [take a look by clicking here.](#)

