



BULLETIN

Latest news on the Priority School Building Programme
from King James I Academy

Issue 1: September/October 2012

Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)

In May 2012 the Government announced that nationally, 261 schools will be rebuilt and redeveloped as part of their £2bn investment in improvements in school buildings. King James I Academy successfully submitted a bid for this funding, as a result of being able to independently submit a bid following its conversion to Academy status in June 2011, and is now beginning the process of realising its vision.



King James I Academy Vision

King James I Academy aims to provide creative and inspirational learning experiences which encourage young people to achieve their full potential and to become intelligent, responsible, productive and caring adults who are well prepared for the challenges of a world full of opportunities.

King James I Academy is a learning community in which all ages meet to share and develop their talents and to promote mutual respect for all people; whatever their age, gender, ability, background or beliefs.

PSBP Update

Following the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Education in May 2012 we have had a number of meetings with representatives of the Department for Education, as well as with architects and surveyors. We have been informed that our building project will be one of the first to be completed. We have already received outline drawings which demonstrate the feasibility of the building proposals (called the "control option") and, over the Summer holidays, our site has been fully surveyed.

Community Involvement & Learning from Other Projects

As we progress towards more detailed discussions about our future building development we are keen to gather ideas and opinions from our local community and to learn lessons from other similar projects.

We have contacted a range of schools that have been rebuilt as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme, and they have provided some very valuable information and feedback. We have used this feedback to create our own display. The PSBP display now stands in the entrance to our school, and it provides an opportunity to consider a range of ideas and to present an opinion on what should or should not be included within our own project.

Current Thinking

As the image at the start of this "Update" shows, we are pleased that we will be able to maintain our Middle School Building (Old Girls Grammar School) as a central part of our redevelopment. This building will be refurbished to provide a twenty-first century learning environment and will be sympathetically connected to a brand new building which will house most of the classrooms. We feel that the

development will reflect our enthusiasm to preserve our history whilst offering all the opportunities available from a purpose built modern school.

The Middle School Building will be the new home for our Sixth Form Centre, as well as being a significant resource to be used to support our visual and performing arts subjects and the delivery of vocational programmes.

Final designs will reflect the feedback we receive from our stakeholders and will enable us to provide buildings which enhance the excellent learning opportunities we already provide through high quality teaching and through our belief in meeting the needs of every student within our school.

Other Site Developments

Whilst many schools would be happy to have been successful in securing £9m of investment in their school, we are ambitious to achieve even more. We are currently involved in detailed discussions about a further investment of £500k in the development of a full-size 3G (artificial grass) pitch, which will further enhance our ability to host school and community events, and we hope to make a positive announcement about this in the very near future.

We also submitted a bid for funding to Sport England to enhance our Queen's Road and Durham Road playing pitches. We found out on 17th September 2012 that we had been successful in our bid and so work will begin on this in the very near future.

The image below highlights the key elements of our school's transformation over the next two years:



The phased development of our site will mean that we can ensure that our high standards of education and care can be maintained.

The process will be a fantastic learning experience for our students and will provide an unparalleled opportunity for our young people to have a significant impact upon their own education and upon that of their children.