

St John's



Dear Parents, Carers and all members of our local community

St John's CE Academy Update

I am writing to you as valuable members of our growing local community to provide an update on the next stage of development for St John's CE Academy.

As you are aware, the Primary Site opened very successfully in September 2023. We are all extremely proud of the children attending Nursery and Reception classes; they are a pleasure to work with and we are building a strong staff team to support their progress as they grow through the academy. The Primary Site will continue to grow with one new year group each year until the school is full in September 2029.

The next exciting phase of the academy's development will be the building of the Secondary Site. Although a separate site, this will be the final phase of our unique, all-through single school which will offer seamless progression through all phases of education from ages 2 to 16.

As I am sure you are aware, the initial time line for this project was for planning permissions to be granted by Christmas, with the build commencing in January. It is self-evident to us all that this initial time frame has slipped, and I am keen to provide an update as to where the project currently stands.

There have been some logistical and environmental issues around planning along with additional funding requirements which have caused some delay to the original time line. These issues have been outside the control of the Vale Academy Trust, and consequently The Trust has had little opportunity to influence or to impact upon the delay.

However, I am delighted to report that these issues are close to resolution. It is anticipated that planning will be secured within the next month and it is hoped that the build programme will begin in the early summer.

Given the delay to the start of the build, it is unlikely that the entire secondary site will be completed in line with the opening in September 2025. It may well be that the constructors will be able to offer a sectional handover of most of the site between September 2025- December 2025, which would still provide plenty of space and facilities for just a single cohort of Year 7 students. We will keep you informed at all stages of the progress being made and any changes to the timescales.

In the event we are unable to occupy the new secondary school building for September 2025, we are working on a contingency plan to use half of St John's CE Primary School on a temporary basis to house the year 7 students for a short period of time until the secondary school is ready to occupy.

At present, as the Primary Site grows from the early years up, there is plenty of internal and external space to manage this possible temporary arrangement and to allow for separate, designated spaces for pupils in the different stages of their education. As we are already planning an all-through school, with one group of staff, one governing body and one leadership team, this temporary arrangement would present very little challenge for us in our unique school context.

Once the planning permission has been confirmed and the build has been commissioned, we will be holding a series of information meetings to explain our plans in more detail, to update you on the planned build and development of the all through school, and to take any questions you may have. On behalf of the Leadership Team, I can say that we are all looking forward to meeting you in person at one or more of those events so that we can share our exciting vision for our unique all-through school with you in person.

In the meantime, if you do have any questions about the information in this letter, please do not hesitate to ask me, Ms Cottrell or Mr Jackson whenever you see us on or around the Primary School Site.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Holroyd
Executive Headteacher

Ms Cottrell
Head of School Primary Site

Mr Jackson
Head of School Secondary Site

Join Our Mailing List

To receive all future updates about St John's CE Academy, please sign up to our mailing list:

→ <https://forms.office.com/e/hjvMnzH559> ←