



7th March 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope that this communication finds you well. We are writing to you with regard to some important issues relating to our school's accommodation.

The Department of Education are currently installing interim accommodation on site for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. This interim accommodation is being installed on the permanent site on the footprint of the new sports hall. We have been informed that the permanent sports hall will now be delivered as part of Phase 2 of the permanent build along with school garden, basketball courts and final landscaping. This interim accommodation will be handed over in June 2023.

This interim accommodation comprises of two separate blocks with 6 classrooms, full size Science Lab, full size Home Economics classroom, full size Art Room and some storage space for student projects. These new practical classrooms will enable us to offer a wider range of Senior Cycle learning experiences for all of our students. As part of our Transition Year Programme, we will offer tasters in a range of option subjects. In May, we will advertise for a Home Economics teacher who we need to offer Home Economics to Leaving Cert. level. We will also receive an additional basketball court which can be used for P.E lessons in basketball, soccer, circuits, tennis and volleyball as well as much needed recreation space for students at break and lunchtime.

While we are pleased with the delivery of this interim accommodation and the ability to plan for the next two academic years, we are hugely disappointed with the recent news around our permanent accommodation. We very much share your own frustrations around this matter.

You may have seen some articles last week in some national media which highlighted the matter in some detail:

- <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/education/school-building-projects-delayed-because-of-funding-priorities-42367527.html>
- <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/2023/03/02/school-building-projects-on-hold-due-to-funding-priorities/>
- <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41084485.html>

We have reached out and contacted all our local elected representatives to highlight our significant concerns and frustrations. Our local TD's have made representations on our behalf to the Minister for Education, Norma Foley. Deputy Ivana Bacik has also submitted a Parliamentary Question on our behalf to the Minister for Education. In addition to this, we have also made contact with some of the other schools in the Lot 6 tender and a number of TD's from three separate constituencies, have on our behalf sought to arrange a meeting with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Pascal Donohoe.

Yesterday, the Department of Education informed us that their most immediate priorities are to cater for September 2023 accommodation requirements and that they are engaging with the

Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform in relation to capital funding pressures in order to continue with the rollout of school building projects to tender and construction in 2023.

As a school community, we really need the help of our parent body to highlight that this situation is simply unacceptable. Your child deserves the same educational facilities as their peers in other schools and pausing this tender process is a false economy given the huge amount of money that has been and will continue to be wasted on temporary modular build accommodation.

It was parent power that led to the decision to open our school in the first place and it is important that your voice is heard throughout this process. We would strongly encourage you to write to your local representatives to seek clarity as to when exactly the tender for our permanent accommodation will go out and what then is the timeline for construction and delivery of our new school.

We need and deserve this clarity to enable us to develop and build upon the vibrant, dynamic and thriving school community which we have all worked so hard to achieve.

Contact details for some of our local TDs are below. As soon as we receive new information from the Department of Education, we will be in communication with you.

- Chris Andrews - Chris.Andrews@oireachtas.ie
- Ivana Bacik - Ivana.Bacik@oireachtas.ie
- Jim O' Callaghan - Jim.OCallaghan@oireachtas.ie
- Eamon Ryan - Eamon.Ryan@oireachtas.ie

Thank you for your continued support.
It is hugely appreciated.

Kind regards,
Pádraig Conaty
Principal

Mick Heffernan
Deputy Principal