

1st July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Dinnington Move and Update.

Most of you will be familiar with the current buildings at Newman School. The Secondary Block on the plans drawn up in 1938 labelled the buildings as 'Sheds'. We believe that our pupils deserve better facilities for learning and more accessible and purpose built provision. Last year Dinnington College site was closed and there were many people who contacted me about using the site for Newman School and I supported this idea. Rotherham Council has led the purchase and refurbishment project of Dinnington and the use of two buildings we call C & D Blocks have been identified as a significant upgrade for our 11-19 pupils. We agreed with the Council that purchasing Block C & D for Newman would greatly improve our school, the environment and our ability to meet the needs of our pupils and your children. We are fully aware that this move also has some difficulties; we have looked at the increase travel time for some pupils and for staff and ensuring we as Newman School can operate over two sites several miles apart. In terms of Transport we have plans to ensure that the door to door service for those who have this will continue without interruption or issues during the relocation. We looked at any issues with sharing a site with another provision and we also looked at what the local community and schools could help supporting us. We came to the conclusion that having the Dinnington site as part of our offer far outweighed the additional difficulties. Alongside the move to Dinnington the Council has been able to fund the demolition and rebuild of the Secondary block – the 'Sheds' and a newly built fit for purpose provision for our EYFS and Primary pupils will be built in its place. This is tremendous news as again it will provide a safe and warm building with appropriate changing facilities, storage and therapy areas.

The purchase of the Dinnington Site was completed early this year and the contracts for the refurbishment have recently been signed. The work across the site is expected to be finished during the end autumn term his year. We will then be moving both the equipment and staff of our main school secondary pupils and then we will start teaching these pupils in their newly refurbished classrooms. I will give a briefing and written information at the beginning of the new term in September. There will be some changes around transport and we will know more about this again by September when the arrangements and contracts have been finalised. There will be two additional inset days when we will shut for pupils to allow us to move. These will be decided when we have been informed about the finishing date from the contractors later in the summer.

We have discussed this with staff and we are preparing our pupils for the move, with far more work planned in September. As with any move there will be some disruption but as a staff we are trying to make sure it is as smooth as possible

As regards the new build once we have moved the secondary classes out of the 'Sheds' will be moving the EYFS in the Bungalow into the main school and re-arranging some of the rooms. The current Medical Block will be demolished and we will convert one of the classrooms into a temporary Medical room.

I do appreciate you may have questions after the meeting, some of which we may be able to answer and some we might have to ask the Council, you can send any questions in to school and we will bring it to them in our regular meetings and I will put responses out via our Facebook page or on the website. As I have mentioned earlier we will also set up another meeting with you as in September to add more detail to the plans and set dates when things are likely to be happening.

I thank you all for your support and patience

Paul Silvester

Headteacher