**Holy Trinity College Capital Build Update, January 2021**

Holy Trinity College are delighted to provide an update to Planning Approval for their new school build.

Mrs Russell, College Principal stated**: *“The news that Planning was approved in July 2020 couldn’t have arrived at a better time given the Covid pandemic at that stage. This is the biggest and most far-reaching project in the College’s history, and the new school upon completion, will provide pupils with ‘state of the art’ facilities and resources, thereby continuing to provide a first class, quality education for our children and for future generations, within a modern, inspiring and innovative bespoke learning environment. We have an exciting future ahead of us now as we finalise plans for our bespoke building and this is very reassuring for our pupils, staff, parents and our wider community.”***

In moving forward, the Department of Education has approved Stage 3 of the Developed Design and the detail involved for all subject areas and facilities is extremely exciting.

**Appointing a Contractor:**

The Procurement Process for the appointment of an Integrated Supply Team is underway. This is the stage whereby Contractors submit their applications to compete for the construction of the new school. Stage 1 is complete, and it is anticipated that Stage 2 which involves only those contractors who have been shortlisted to compete for the Construction contract, will be completed early 2021. Following a tough assessment regime, the ultimate decision will be announced shortly thereafter\*. We will then know who has been awarded the Contract to build the new school.

*\*  All dates assume progress will not be significantly affected by the pandemic.*

**Facilities:**

Set against a skyline of the Sperrin Mountains, the new 15,865m2 school on the current site and to be built for a 1300 pupil population, will have a range of facilities including a full-size Gaelic Football synthetic pitch along with 2 x Multi-Use Games Areas / Handball / Tennis Courts and a Fitness and Conditioning Suite.

Internally, all subject areas will avail of new cutting edge facilities and technology, set over three floors, to benefit pupils and staff, in addition to a Lecture Theatre, Multi-purpose Hall and integrated Canteen and Grab ‘n’ Go Café.

**Quality educational provision:**

The proposed new school will be designed to ensure quality post-primary educational provision in both academic and vocational pathways, via a learning environment built on focused collaboration, a blended curriculum, flexible and digital learning spaces, sports facilities, STEM, vocational training (engineering, manufacturing, agriculture, hospitality etc), and profound employer engagement, thereby contributing to the development of a skilled workforce for the future economy of the Mid-Ulster area and a career that may span multiple occupations. The College will also be a welcoming space for the local community, be it to avail of lifelong learning, receive advice or engage in leisure opportunities.

**Fundraising:**

Additional fundraising is also underway to provide supplementary resources and facilities to complement the Departmental funding for the new school. The ***Holy Trinity College Foundation*** has been established to drive this forward and will continue its structured fundraising programme throughout the scheme. Past pupils, parents/guardians and former staff members can play their part by signing up to the Alumni Association with membership of £5 per month/£60 per year. Please click on the Link <https://holytrinitycollegefoundation.org/joinawinningteam/> to sign up and become a member.

This complex school project has a very simple aim: ***to provide the best possible accommodation incorporating innovative and industry standard facilities, to enable current and future pupils to achieve to their true potential academically, vocationally, emotionally and socially.***

Whilst Project Board and Project Team Meetings will continue to keep the project moving forward, Mrs Russell stated*:* ***“We now have one final opportunity to get this right and ensure that Catholic post-primary education in Cookstown will be transformed to new heights. We have had great support from our community to date, and our children and staff deserve to have the best ‘state of the art’ teaching facilities to enable a first class quality education to be delivered.*  *We can and we will achieve this. Thank you to everyone for your support”.***



