**Holy Trinity College Capital Build Update**

Holy Trinity College are delighted to provide an update to the recent Planning Approval of Monday 6 July, at the Mid-Ulster Council Planning Meeting for their new school build.  Mrs Russell, College Principal stated**: *“The news couldn’t have arrived at a better time given the current pandemic. We have an exciting future ahead of us now and planning approval is an extremely reassuring step for our pupils, staff, parents and our wider community”***.  ***“As the biggest and most far reaching project in the College’s history, 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”*** continued Mrs Russell.

In moving forward, Stage 3 of the Developed Design is well under way and already, Stage 1 of the Procurement Process (Pre-Qualification Questionnaire) has been completed. It is anticipated that Stage 2 of this process, will be issued to those contractors who were successful in Stage 1, in the third quarter of 2020, to proceed to the ‘Call for Tender’, ie tender to construct the new school.

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.

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.

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 ‘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”.***

