

31st August 2010

School Development Plans

I would like to update you on progress in relation to developments at Junior School and Senior School.

At the start of August we interviewed firms of architects and I am delighted to announce that we have awarded the Senior School development contract to Page \ Park Architects. Based in Glasgow, Page\ Park has been in practice for over 28 years and has a wide experience in many sectors of architectural design and strategic planning. The firm is renowned for designing and delivering creative, innovative teaching and learning environments; previous educational projects include Fettes College, Dollar Academy, The High School of Dundee, Glasgow Academy, Strathclyde University and The University of Dundee to name a few.

The School wishes to develop its facilities in phases over the next 20 years or so and Page \ Park has extensive experience in strategic masterplanning and a thorough understanding of conservation and the importance of communities. Page \ Park is committed to a long term relationship with the School and the Board is confident that it will deliver a development that satisfies the School's vision for improved facilities and contributes positively to our village community. The appointment of architects now allows us to commence detailed site investigations and initial discussions with planners.

A further period of consultation will commence with parents, staff, neighbours and the local community when outline plans have been prepared and I shall be in touch with you again at that time. In the meantime if you wish to make any comment, please contact Nichola McKay at Senior School or email nmckay@st-columbas.org.

I am also pleased to report that we have been granted planning consent for a new permanent Nursery building at Junior School. Work is due to commence over the October holidays with a fully operational Nursery expected early next year.

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During the summer break another refurbishment phase took place at Senior School; the reception and office area was fully renovated, a new telephone system and heating system was installed and the SI/SII girls' cloakroom area was transformed into a most attractive space. Although the time schedule was challenging, the end result is extremely pleasing and significantly improves the school fabric.

These developments represent a significant investment in improved facilities for our pupils and staff which are both needed and deserved.

Finally, I am sure you have already heard of the excellent SQA results St Columba's gained this year. I would like to congratulate Pupils and Staff on their success.

Yours sincerely

David R Ward
Chairman, Board of Directors

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Rector: David G Girdwood BSc MEd SQH
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