

20 November 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

ST JOHN'S MARLBOROUGH – COVID 19

As we move towards the end of week 3, I am pleased to be able to report that the students are clearly working hard and the overwhelming majority of the students are endeavouring to follow the COVID-19 safe guidance. Our attendance is very strong and is way above the national picture and I want to thank everyone for the part they are playing in keeping St John's operating as well as possible. Our message is simple and if in any doubt, just remember:



Similarly, please follow the guidance at the bottom of this letter if you do need to inform us of either a suspected or confirmed case.

St John's Proposed New Sports Facilities

I have briefly mentioned in other letters about the plans that St John's and Excalibur have for the development of land at the front of the school building. Now is the time to give you some more information and to seek your help as we move towards a planning application which we intend to place at the beginning of 2021.

Many of you will be aware that St John's currently has more than 1700 students on its roll serving Marlborough and the surrounding villages. This includes existing and new housing developments, such as the Redrow development at Marlberg Grange to the south of the town.

When planning permission was originally granted for the new school building in 2003, it included permission for an all-weather pitch. As you know, this has not been built and the land is currently left as unmade hardstanding. Two temporary portacabin buildings sited there are used as changing rooms to try to meet the needs of our PE department.

Whilst the Academy has a good supply of grass pitches for outdoor sports and games, there is only one indoor sports hall which is used by all the students. At certain times of the year, such as during the exam season, the hall is unavailable leaving us with very limited options. In addition, the school does not have an all-weather pitch (AWP) which can also restrict the sports and games activities we can offer to our students.

As part of the planning permission for the Redrow development, money has been secured by Wiltshire Council to provide facilities for St John's to prepare for additional places generated by the new housing. We already have sufficient classroom space, but there is a clear need for additional sports facilities. This is the opportunity we need to grab to help develop our facilities further.

In addition, we are hugely appreciative of funding secured from the St John's Foundation Trust. Their interest and support of this development has been secure from the start and we have valued their input.

As a result, we are proposing to erect a new sports hall, two all-weather hard surface games courts and provide new social space for our students.

- The sports hall will include a four-court hall with separate changing rooms and toilet facilities.
- The asphalt games courts will provide two courts suitable for sports including basketball, netball, 5-a-side football and tennis.
- Other outdoor facilities include social space and we hope to add covered and open seating areas.
- There will be significant new landscaping and tree planting on the boundary lines.

The proposed new sports hall will be a single storey building which will blend in with the existing buildings and be sympathetic to its position in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The toilet facilities will be accessible from both the hall and outdoor space which will improve the current provision within the school.

We are delighted that this will create an opportunity to strengthen even greater the links with the wider community as we will be able to offer these facilities to local clubs and organisations. More details will follow on how this will be made available in due course.

Now, we need your help and we would ask as many parents and carers as possible to follow this link, <https://consultingyou.co.uk/st-johns-school> to our Public Consultation Website. Here you will be able to see the plans in more detail and you will also be able to contribute to the consultation by making a comment. We would really welcome positive contributions from our parent body which will contribute greatly to the Planning Permission process.

Notification of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases

I cannot emphasise enough that it is vital you let the school know through the COVID-19 email - covid-19@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk if you have any pandemic related concerns we need to be aware of. This is particularly important if you need to take a test or have a positive case. We also continue to keep up to date our dedicated area on the school website which can be found at: <https://www.stjohns.excalibur.org.uk/latest-covid-19-information/>

We are fortunate enough to have an Academy Nurse at St John's who monitors these concerns regularly and the sooner we know, the sooner we can take action.

The Twitter feed continues to be a very useful way of staying in touch with what St John's are doing in the community as well, so please follow that and re-tweet if you wish.

As always, I hope that you and your family continue to keep safe.

With kindest regards



Mr I Tucker
Principal