

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## **Woodbridge Road Academy Council Meeting**

Attendees:

- Naomi Shenton (Principal)
- Rachel Creyke (Academy Council member)
- Beatriz Dominguez (Academy Council member)
- Two other parents (online)
- David Willis (Chair of Directors of Paradigm Trust, online)
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### **New build progress update**

The new school building is on track to be handed over on 7<sup>th</sup> July; meetings with the contractors to organise the handover are now taking place fortnightly.

The building is water-tight and lockable. There are plans to take the pupils to visit the site in two different groups, on 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April. Photos of the building site will be available to share in the next school newsletter. Parents will be invited to visit the site after handover.

In order to minimise pupil transitions in the new school building, the plan is to organise each class group in a main classroom, with teachers moving between rooms. A classroom tutor will be the first point of contact.

Additionally, the school building includes a main hall, dining hall, labs, music room and plenty of spaces for pupil flexibility. There is also plenty of exterior space, including a pitch for games and a garden. There are plans to have a therapy dog in the school.

The drop-in and pick-up traffic will be managed inside the school perimeter. The school is being positively received by the local community.

Pupil admissions for September are now complete; staff recruitment is almost complete.

Plans to transition into the new school building before the end of the academic year have had to be reconsidered, with transition now happening in September. The children will be making a time capsule to be buried on the site.

Launch event for the new building

There are intentions to organise a launch event for the new building, hopefully in July. This will be a celebration for all the pupils (existing and new) and their families, a “fun day”, after school activity with parents and siblings invited to join.

As such an event may be challenging for pupils with sensory issues, it has been suggested that a “bring a picnic” event may work well.

#### Parent / carer workshops and coffee mornings

The school's leadership remains committed to bringing parents to participate in school life, with a coffee morning and workshop organised for 21<sup>st</sup> April.

#### Homework

There was agreement between the members of the Council that homework should remain flexible and the approach to it has to be very caring.

The plan is to start celebrating reading, leaving it to each pupil to choose what to read (comics included). The school library has a good collection of books which could be used for this purpose.