



28 November 2016

Dear Parents

SITE WORKS – SPRING TERM 2017

As you will know, the Building Schools for the Future programme was cancelled shortly before Graveney was due to receive its proposed £46.5 million for a major school refurbishment and redesign project. Since then, we have been applying to the Education Funding Agency piecemeal to try and repair and improve our estate. Over the last few years we have made successful bids to improve the heating system, upgrade the electrical infrastructure and to build the new Bradford Block. This year, we have been successful in obtaining £1.4 million in capital funding to repair/replace some of our worst windows and roofs. This is very good news, as we have been suffering from leaks in a number of classrooms, offices and communal spaces as a result of the deterioration in condition in some of our buildings of these two elements.

We have already completed the re-roofing of both Upper and Lower Science and it has been possible to complete both of these projects with very little disruption to the normal running of the school. However, the works scheduled in the Spring term will be a little more difficult to manage. The Technology Block, which includes the Sixth Form Study Centre, is having new windows throughout. This will mean that some Food and Textiles lessons will have to be relocated in ordinary classrooms for up to a week, on a rolling programme until all rooms are completed. The Sixth Form Study Centre presents a bigger problem on account of the number and size of the windows. We expect that we will have to take the Study Centre completely out of commission for around a month in the Spring Term. During this time we will find alternative spaces for sixth form students to go to work during their free periods. It may not be possible to provide computers with network access, but if we can find a way of achieving this we will.

We will also be replacing the windows in the College House Assembly Hall. During this time, we will run a reduced programme of assemblies as the Hall will be completely inaccessible. The scaffolding will run all the way around the College House Refectory and there will also be some protective boarding in that area. This will mean that the Refectory may have little natural light for a few weeks, but other than that kitchen services will be operating normally.

It would always be preferable to undertake site works out of school term time. The scale of these projects makes that option completely unachievable. However, I know that the improvements to the environment (weather tight rooms that can also retain their heat during the winter) will be welcomed by both staff and students.

We are bidding for further capital funds for the 2017/18 year and will let you have details of those projects should we be successful.

Yours sincerely,

G E Stapleton
Principal

Principal: Graham Stapleton
Headteacher: Keith Barbrook