



DINNINGTON CAMPUS UPDATE

09 July 2021

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of our Dinnington Campus newsletter, in which we will keep you informed about our exciting plans to create a new specialist Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) School at the former Dinnington College Campus and redevelop the Upper School site at Newman Special School.

In this latest edition of the newsletter we share updates on the progress so far as demolition work begins at Dinnington and plans are submitted for the Newman School redevelopment (including a first look at what the school might look like).

We also share some of the excitement felt by the children who will be attending the new school and more information on how parents and carers are shaping the future of the schools and how you can get involved.

JULY 21

Contact semhfreeschool@rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council





Dinnington Progress Update

The contractor has now started on site at the Dinnington Complex and demolition work on block B is well under way.

We are working closely with the Wellspring Academy, who will be running Rotherham's brand-new school for children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, and we are ensuring that all works required to the inside and outside the building, including furniture and IT, will meet the needs of the children and young people .

Meanwhile, work has started on adaptations to Block C and D, which will be utilised by Newman School, to pave the way for their students to attend a separate part of the complex and we have started conversations about how the two individual educational provisions will work together on the same site.



Newman School update

The rebuild of Newman Upper School is also now gathering pace with a planning application now submitted for the outline design. This image is an initial concept of what the design could look like.

The transfer of Newman school students to Dinnington College's C and D blocks, will allow the redevelopment of part of the School buildings at Newman to take place whilst the remaining pupils can continue to attend at the existing School site.

We are also in discussion with health colleagues about how we can ensure therapeutic and physiotherapy input can continue to be delivered from the Newman site.

WHEN WILL CHILDREN START AT THE NEW SCHOOL?

With work moving quickly, we are now working to agree timescales for the start of the two new school provisions at Dinnington and these plans will be shared with parent / carer at the beginning of September.

“I’m excited about everything!”

Some of the pupils from the Rowan Centre have shared their thoughts about life at their new school in Dinnington ...

Y8 student - I can't wait to have lots more space to play with my friends, I really want us to have a proper football team. It will be brilliant!

Y10 student – I will love it if there is a gym because we miss out on doing indoor PE at Rowan. Our hall is too small.

Y9 student - Bigger and better areas to learn in will be great. Our classrooms are a bit small. We will also have space to play proper games. I am excited!

Y10 student – I am looking forward to having a better and bigger ICT suite and cooking facilities. We will be able to learn and do so much more.

Y8 student - This school is near my house so I will be more independent and walk to school and from school with my friends. I am really looking forward to having more space as well.

Y11 student – We will have a bigger school and we won't all be cramped in.

Y8 student– I am excited about everything!

Have your say ...

Rotherham Council’s Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion, Nathan Heath

I am really excited about the range of SEN developments we have across the borough, in particular the implementation of a designated SEMH school by our Academy provider and the rebuild of part of Newman special school.

The developments represent a significant investment for the Council in SEN services and provision and enables us to build on phase one and two of our Sufficiency strategy.

However, we are conscious that this is multi-faceted complex implementation programme of work including building works, HR processes, school mobilisations and transitions of children and young people. We need to get this right and we know there is lots of work to do in some challenging timescales.

I want to thank everyone for their support and contributions so far and also ask that you are patient with us as we work through all the challenges, issues and questions. We are committed to engaging and communicating with staff and parents/ carers at each stage to keep everyone updated and aware of next steps. I’m also keen to ensure that we continue to get as much feedback as possible and we are working to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions.”

If you have any queries about the project, please drop us a line at semhfreeschool@rotherham.gov.uk



Survey of Parents and Carers

Rotherham Parents Carers Forum have carried a detailed and wide ranging consultation with parents and carers to gather their views on SEMH issues and provision.

The report has provided valuable insights into what is important to parents, with top answers including staffing approach, class sizes, preparation for adulthood, curriculum and the physical environment.

It also made a series of recommendations and these are also being considered as we develop the SEMH offer and SEN provision across the borough.

To learn more about the consultation, visit www.rpcf.co.uk

New trust has track record of success

Wellspring Academy Trust, which has been appointed to run Rotherham's brand-new school for children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, was selected following a rigorous and highly competitive selection process involving Rotherham Council, the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Department for Education. Wellspring has extensive experience in managing special schools across Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Its ethos emphasises inclusion and



unconditional positive regard, providing supportive, effective and understanding environments for all children in its care.

The Trust has built eight new schools and had fourteen consecutive positive Ofsted reports since its inception eight years ago.

Wellspring Chief Executive, Mark Wilson said: "This is fantastic news for young people and their families in Rotherham. Children and young people with SEMH needs require specialist support and facilities to help them realise their potential. This welcome development led by RMBC shows a clear commitment to these children and their families. We are thrilled to have been chosen as the provider of the new school.

"We are confident that we can achieve something very special in Dinnington. We're looking forward to getting the new school up and running and welcoming our first pupils."

Councillor Victoria Cusworth, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, said: "Wellspring Academy Trust was chosen from a high-quality group of applicants. They are extremely highly regarded in the region and have a proven track record for delivering significantly improved outcomes for children. We are very excited to be working alongside them on our shared goal of boosting the education and life chances of Rotherham children."

For more information on Wellspring Academy Trust, visit [Wellspring Academy Trust](http://WellspringAcademyTrust)

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WANT TO SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS AND IDEAS FOR THE DINNINGTON COMPLEX, PLEASE
EMAIL: semhfreeschool@rotherham.gov.uk**