



DINNINGTON CAMPUS UPDATE

December 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 will provide an update on the progress of building work at Dinnington Campus and our plans to identify a new Academy partner to deliver the SEMH provision.

We are delighted to confirm that students from Newman School are now on site and settling in well in blocks C & D as scheduled and our exciting plans to redevelop Newman Upper School site are progressing well.

If you want to provide any feedback on this newsletter or have any questions about the Dinnington Campus or Newman School redevelopment schemes, please contact us using the email address below.

DECEMBER 21

Contact semhfreeschool@rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council



Assistant Director's update

It is vital that we recognise the hard work of all stakeholders across this school term and the continued strong investment in children and young people across Aspire Pupil Referral Unit, Rowan Pupil Referral Unit, and Newman Special School. The move of Newman Special School into blocks C and D of the Dinnington site is a real achievement and measure of the commitment of all to this project.

Due to a range of factors we have had a delay in timeline linked to SEMH Free School. Our previous provider, Wellspring Academy Trust is no longer the approved provider for this aspect of the Dinnington Project and we thank them for their participation, it is unfortunate that we were unable to move forward in partnership with the trust. We have worked hard with colleagues in the Department of Education to move forward with our Free School Presumption and we are now moving into the next stages of this process.

Our aspiration is that we can formally update all partners in late January about the next stage of the Free School Presumption process and we are working hard to move this forward. We will be keeping all stakeholders and partners updated on progress of the Free School Presumption, the building work has commenced on Blocks A and B at Dinnington, this will allow us to develop a clear date of opening for new site which will be post Easter 2022. Most importantly it will allow for transition work for pupils, staff, parents, and carers to be effectively planned in partnership with all stakeholders.

Can I take this chance to wish you all a sincere level of gratitude for all your help and support this academic year, I hope you all have a happy Christmas, you all stay safe, get a well-deserved break and I hope all have a fantastic 2022.

Nathan Heath
Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion
Rotherham Council



Work underway to appoint new Academy partner

As you may be aware, we had selected and had initially been working with Wellspring Academy Trust as our preferred partner to run the new Social, Emotional and Mental Health provision at Dinnington Campus.

However, this is no longer the case and work is now well underway to identify an alternative academy partner, after receiving consent from the DfE to do so. Once an appropriate partner identified we will let you know at the earliest opportunity and ask you, once again, to work with us and the new provider in a co-productive to ensure the excellent provision our children deserve is offered.



We are working towards the Regional Schools Commissioner making a decision on the provider at the end of January. Once a sponsor is identified, Rotherham Parent Carer Forum will be asked to facilitate a Question and Answer session with the new provider, which families will be welcome to attend.

Meanwhile building work to block A at Dinnington Campus, where the new SEMH school will be located, is progressing well and despite the impact of the pandemic on the commercial building sector, it is on track. We are hoping the building will be ready, as scheduled, for Easter 2022.

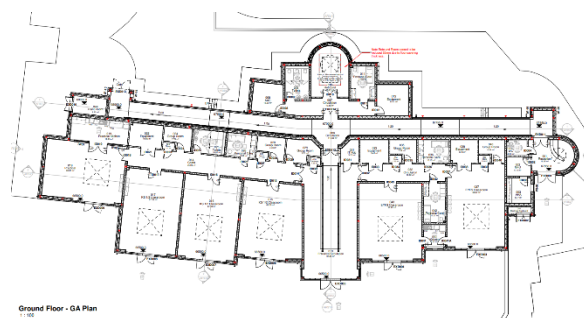
Newman School latest

We are delighted to confirm that the move of Newman students went ahead smoothly in mid-November and they are now settled in to blocks C and D of the Dinnington Campus.

The move will allow for the long-awaited redevelopment of the Newman Upper School site and contribute towards a much-needed expansion in capacity for Newman, from 120 to 180 places.

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of the entire Newman School family – head teacher Paul, all the staff, students, families, supported by teams across Rotherham Council – the move to the new site went ahead smoothly and everyone is now settling in well to their new environment. We understand for some young people this change may have been difficult, so we'd like to say an especially big thank you to all parents, families and the Council's schools transport team for working together to try and minimise any difficulties as much as possible.

Plans have been drawn up for the new redeveloped Upper School site. You can view the latest ground floor layout and elevation drawings attached to this email.



Latest project timetable

Date	Details	Status
Early November 2021	Building Work commences on blocks A & B of SEMH School	In Progress
Mid November	Newman Upper School – transition and move into blocks C & D at Dinnington Campus	Complete
Early December	Information submitted to Department of Education to support new Free School presumption selections	Complete
End January 2022 (est)	Regional School Commissioner to make decision on free school provider	To do
February 2022 (est)	Formal process linked to the Free School to commence, subject to Regional School Commissioner decision	To do
Post Easter 2022	Building workstream to be completed subject to timeline and indicative opening date to be provided to support transition to specialist SEMH provision at Dinnington Campus	To do

GET INVOLVED!

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