



DINNINGTON CAMPUS UPDATE

February 2022

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 revised timeline for the project as a whole, following a month's delay to the expected decision date by the Regional School's Commissioner in appointing the SEMH free school provider.

We also have information for you on the school transport arrangements for the new school, which we know many of you have been asking about.

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.

FEBRUARY 22

Contact semhfreeschool@rotherham.gov.uk

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council



Assistant Director's update

We want to reassure you that despite the challenges and minor setbacks with the Dinnington Campus Project, there is a powerful group of multi-agency managers meeting regularly and working hard to create the right provision for our children.

The SEND Sufficiency Board is made up of representatives from Rotherham Parent Carers Forum and officers from departments across Rotherham Council, including education, inclusion, commissioning, transport, asset management, regeneration and environment, HR, legal, finance and communications.

They meet every month and report into the SEND Executive Group.

Since our last update before Christmas, we have encountered a slight delay to the appointment of a new Free School partner, which we now expect to be confirmed by the end of this month. We recognise the delayed decision from the Department for Education on the Free School may be causing uncertainty for all stakeholders. We value your patience and reassure you that we recognise the need to provide regular, clear updates. Following the decision of the Regional School Commissioner at the end of this month, we hope to provide clear timeline to opening plans for the new school.

I know school staff and support services continue to work collectively to provide supportive updates as we await the outcome of this decision and wanted to express my sincere gratitude to all parties for their work to achieve the aspiration of a specialist SEMH school in the borough.

Nathan Heath
Assistant Director for Education and Inclusion
Rotherham Council

Work progressing well at school site

Building work, both internally and externally is continuing to progress very well at Dinnington Campus, as these latest images show:





School transport Q&A

All children moving to the new site at Dinnington will need to have their entitlement for transport assistance reviewed to confirm eligibility and to also assist the Local Authority in identifying appropriate transport provision.

This includes all children who currently receive home to school transport assistance provided by the Local Authority or have a personal transport budget arrangement in place. Parents/carers of all children moving to the new provision will receive a communication from the Business & Projects Team to advise them of the need to complete an online application form which can also be accessed here: <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/xfp/form/363>

Completed applications will be accepted from the child's family, school representative or family advocate, but if anyone experiences any difficulty accessing or completing the form they can email education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk for assistance.

When will families be informed of the outcome of the assessment?

All transport applications for children moving to the Dinnington site received by the Local Authority will be prioritised and a response should then be sent to the email address provided on the application form within 20 working days from the date of the application. If families have not received a response within this timescale, they can email education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk to request an update on the application.

If transport assistance is approved, what happens next?

The Business & Projects Team will send confirmation of entitlement via the email address provided on the application form. There will be no confirmed transport details provided at this stage as the application form and additional assessment documents will be passed to the Travel Planning Team who are responsible for organising the transport. You may be asked by the team to provide additional information if the child has any medical or mobility issues which will need further consideration.

The Travel Planning Team will confirm all transport arrangements with the family once they have been established.

If transport assistance is refused can the decision be challenged?

Each transport application will be assessed for entitlement under the qualification criteria contained in our current home to school transport policy. If a transport application is refused, the applicant will be given full details why this decision has been reached. The family will then have the option to request an appeal against the refusal. Further details about the appeals procedure is given in our home to school transport policy: <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/download/213/school-transport>

Will children who live within 3 miles of the new site still get transport if they have previously had it?

Each application for transport assistance will be assessed on an individual basis. If the child continues to qualify for transport assistance based on our assessment of their particular needs then transport will still be provided. All families who make an application for transport will be notified of the outcome of their application

How can parents apply for a personal transport budget if they wish to make their own transport arrangements?

Personal transport budgets can be a more flexible and suitable transport option available to families who would prefer to make their own transport arrangements and are available for consideration for all qualifying children, even if they are currently travelling to school on transport organised by the Local Authority.

If a family is interested in a personal transport budget arrangement then they should indicate their interest when prompted on the application form. Once eligibility of transport assistance has been confirmed, the family will be contacted to discuss suitability and be provided with full details of the arrangement. The personal transport budget calculations are based on the shortest mileage measured from home to school x 45p per mile x 4 journeys per day. Monies are paid to the family prior to the start of each new school term (3 payments per school year).

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
February	February edition of Dinnington Campus newsletter	Complete
End February 2022 (est)	Regional School Commissioner to make decision on free school provider	To do
March 2022 (est)	Formal process linked to the Free School to commence, subject to Regional School Commissioner decision	To do
w/c 4 April	April edition of Dinnington Campus newsletter	To do
April 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
w/c 23 May	May edition of Dinnington Campus newsletter	To do
Summer term	Proposed opening date (dependent on Regional Schools Commissioner decision on free school presumption)	To do