

## PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL



### PHS Buildings Sub-Group Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

#### Attendees :

Kevin Ryalls (KR) Headteacher  
Tristan Compton (TC) Chair  
Louise Fraser (LF)  
David Flynn (DF)  
Sarah Duncan (SD)

Morag Stevenson (MS)  
Claire Wildsmith (CW)  
Richard MacKenzie (RM)  
Susan Jarvis (SJ)

#### Summary of key points and actions

- KR met last Friday with the project team, including Architects, and Chris Virtue (Project Manager)
- KR Confirmed that the new school building will be available to move into in October 2025, with the current building demolition and landscaping taking place by Summer 2026
- KR Confirmed that the Victorian building will be returned to its original layout (removing modern extensions) and made wind and watertight. It will not form part of the school estate after the new school opens and it is hoped a community buyer will be found.
- KR Confirmed the internal layout was now fixed. Decisions still to be taken on anything “loose” (defined as items that would move if the building was turned upside down). Appropriate consultation will take place on loose items with all stakeholders. Furniture discussions expected in March 2024.
- MS asked about provision for joint music & drama performances in view of the space available. KR confirmed that the hall design was now fixed, but agreed to follow up specific queries about use of the balcony space (openable windows), use of the gym hall as a bigger alternative (acoustic and lighting concerns), and total hall capacity (360 was stated previously) **ACTION KR**
- RM asked about seeing the revised acoustics report which had been promised previously. KR will obtain from project team and forward to the group **ACTION KR**
- TC asked about the potential to incorporate creative ideas/best practices from other new school builds as the internal design progresses. KR asked about the schools the group had previously visited, **ACTION TC** to share the report. RM suggested a visit to recently completed Wallyford School could be beneficial. **ACTION KR** to consider a visit (involving pupils, staff, and parents)
- KR confirmed that Alistair Reid (DHT) will take a lead on maximising the educational opportunities of the building site next door – e.g. relevant course options, social value, construction open doors day (March)
- TC asked about staff engagement and the change management needed between now and the opening to ensure staff can make the most of the new space and the opportunities for new ways of teaching we are expecting it to provide. KR stated there was still much to be done to improve staff engagement with the project and this would be a focus going forward **ACTION KR**

- TC asked about plans for ongoing engagement with parents and pupils KR confirmed he would institute a quarterly engagement process involving Pupils, Staff and Parents, and chaired by SLT, feeding into the project team (PHS, BAM, TT, SBC), and with communication of outcomes to all stakeholders. LF asked that Primary schools be involved, and sought assurance that this would be a collaborative process rather than communication of decisions already taken. **ACTION KR** – Proposed schedule: 2024 - March/June/October/December 2025 March/June/September
- KR confirmed the current school building was being repaired/maintained. The Portacabin toilets are currently closed and will be reopened following improvements
- SD sought confirmation that the 3G pitch was not suffering maintenance issues. KR confirmed he was not aware of any, but that Live Borders should be asked as they have a maintenance duty.
- TC asked that the library be returned to a study space due to the ongoing lack of suitable study spaces for seniors in school. **ACTION KR** to investigate.