

St Leonard's Catholic School, Durham ROAD MAP UPDATE

10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We know that the current situation remains very difficult for our staff, students and families and we want to reassure you that we remain resolute in our commitments to you. We are continuing to work closely with the DfE and our partners and are doing everything possible to get our whole school community back together.

Last week we were delighted to confirm that BAM have been appointed, through early engagement, as the delivery partner for the School Rebuilding Programme at St Leonard's and we look forward to working with them in the coming weeks and months.

You will have seen that we are making good progress with the substantial temporary structures being erected on the field, and Arena has been appointed to oversee this part of the project. Unfortunately, the very recent adverse weather conditions have hindered our progress and highlighted drainage issues. It was our intention to put in place a temporary drainage solution but we now believe a permanent connection to the existing drains will be less disruptive and better meet our longer term needs.

This means that the temporary structures will be not be available until the start of the new term. We know this will be disappointing but we believe this is a necessary step to ensure no further disruption to our students.

We are working with contractors to put specialist teaching environments in place, with Science being an immediate priority. St Leonard's has asbestos in a number of areas and specialist contractors have now been commissioned to undertake safe removal and complete other health and safety work.

We are also continuing discussions with the relevant bodies to ensure our students are not disadvantaged through this unprecedented situation. We are resolute in our request for students taking examinations at KS2, KS4 and KS5 to have appropriate levels of special consideration depending on how badly their studies or coursework have been affected.

We have written to the exam boards alerting them to our situation and informing them that we will be submitting our case for our examination students in due course.

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In order to support our case we have commissioned Professor Stephen Gorard and his team from Durham University to conduct an impact assessment into the affect that this disruption has had on our students and their exam prospects. When this research is completed we will be submitting the report's conclusions to the various regulatory bodies as part of our case for their consideration.

The school is now running a revision programme for Year 11 students and this has been very well received. There is also a homework club, open to all students across all year groups. Our catch-up and tutoring programme is being mapped out to meet identified needs and assessment will be undertaken in school.

St Leonard's will continue to provide the usual weekly update, including areas such as the Road Map, Mass, Hot Meals, Timetable, Specialist Provision, Catch-up and Tutoring.

We cannot thank you enough for your support and continued patience during an extremely challenging time and we will keep you informed as plans continue to develop.

Very best wishes,

Nick Hurn OBE
Chief Executive Officer

Chris Hammill
Headteacher