

The New Castlebrae Arriving in August 2021!



Further consideration and consultation will take place as part of an ongoing process of development as the plans move towards becoming finalised in readiness for construction. This is a hugely exciting time for Castlebrae as we edge ever closer to a building that is able to fully support the innovative learning and teaching experiences that we believe are crucial to improving outcomes for our young people and the wider community.

We are in no doubt that some of the experiences we provide now are ground-breaking in terms of how they engage with our partners and engage our young people in their learning. To be able to think and plan ahead for provision of these experiences in a building that will be inspirational in its design, with the aim of transforming lives, is truly amazing.



CASTLEBRAE
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



NEWS

Replacement Castlebrae 2021 Special Edition!

FOCUS RESPECT INTEGRITY PERSEVERANCE

In November 2017, work started on planning for a new building to replace the current Castlebrae High School. With a rising roll and a projection for a much increased student population over the next 10 years, a priority has been given to ensure our community has a new facility that provides an exciting, inspirational and creative learning hub for the community. The designs and the planning application are in place following extensive consultation with the Castlebrae Community. 18 months into the design process and the initial input from the Space Strategies team of designers has enabled a brief that captured the Castlebrae vision of an environment that would build on an existing collaborative ethos, fostering and developing partnerships through design of spaces to transform learning and teaching. This Space Strategies Design Brief was then handed over to the Architects (JM) and the construction team (Morrison) who are now working together to ensure the design of the building meets the expectation of providing an inspirational resource for the community. With Landscape Architects Wardell Armstrong, Interior Designers Space Zero, Engineers Woolgar Hunter & Ramboll also on board, the consultation and discussions continue apace as the building and its environment take shape. This Newsletter will provide a full update of the progress as we head towards the opening date of August 2021.



The plans for the new building have really taken shape over the past few months with the team involved working very closely together, ensuring there is a shared and common goal to fulfil the Design Brief. There have been around 50 different workshops and meetings to engage the community in the process and to influence the design. There have also been a number of visits to other new school builds across the country to see how the design of learning environments is impacting positively on communities. These visits have provided much inspiration for our own designs and we have been very grateful to be shown around fantastic buildings such as Garnock Campus and Waid Academy. With

Community engagement a key aspect of how the vision for the building is being realised, there are spaces being designed to invite people in, to share in learning experiences and to benefit from the outstanding facilities available.



FOCUS RESPECT INTEGRITY PERSEVERANCE



Consultation with the Community at Castlebrae and consideration of how to take forward the existing vision and values of the school have resulted in a design brief that outlines space requirements of a new building to embrace a collaborative learning ethos. Reviewing the existing curriculum and transposing this to a learning community with a roll of 700 presents a unique opportunity to take forward the innovative practice that a smaller roll has enabled over recent years. With partnerships at the core of curriculum development, the design of the building will aim to foster and support collaboration, developing and enhancing the capacity to improve attainment and achievement. The Design Brief details a curriculum vision for three main areas of learning (Hubs), which merge faculties in spaces, supporting collaborative learning across the curriculum. An important feature of this vision is the inclusion of larger collaborative areas (Learning Plazas) with each of the three curricular hubs having access to these areas. It is vital that these spaces are used creatively and efficiently, as a natural component of the collaborative vision.



The aim of these spaces is for them to be integral to the learning environment and not an 'add-on' to more traditional forms of learning. With each curricular Hub having a Learning Plaza, it will provide an opportunity for staff to plan innovative and creative learning experiences together, to further develop and apply skills for learning, life and work in different contexts for the young people. Traditional timetabling methods will adapt and work with the learning spaces, enabling the Learning Hubs to have increased flexibility in terms of empowering curricular areas with the ability to define how the space in their areas is used most effectively.



Site Plan for Replacement Castlebrae Building

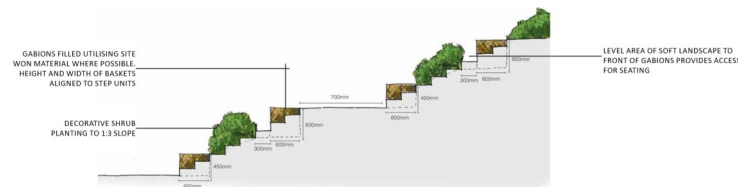
Collaboration in STEM - S1 Microscope Project runs across 2 days, involves partners and parents, bringing together skills development in Maths, Science and CDT



The Literacy Space takes prominence in the Invited Community area at the front of the building

Just as important as the design of internal space is the consideration given to how external space will be used.

There is a large area of land (as can be seen on the site plan) which will work to further enhance opportunities for creative learning and teaching, as well as providing social areas and facilities for leisure and recreation. The relationship between the interior and exterior of the building is crucial to developing a holistic approach to improve the learning, attainment and health and wellbeing of the community. Initial plans for external spaces aim to make use of the change in height levels of the ground to develop defined areas over the site for learning, socialising, recreation and leisure. Design themes are being created to make connections between the interior of the building and the landscape and environment outside.



ED12484 | Replacement Castlebrae High School

wardell armstrong



The New Castlebrae as seen from Niddrie Mains Road



The central dining area lies at the heart of the social landscape of the building, connecting key spaces

