

St Augustine's Priory
Building Development Programme
Q & A



- In line with its vision for excellence in learning and teaching, St Augustine's Priory has engaged architects to audit our space in the light of current and projected curriculum needs. We have also assessed the fitness of the school's current buildings to adapt to and meet the evolving needs of the school community.
- In the light of those findings, we have assessed the opportunities and constraints of our existing buildings (a number of which have developed organically rather than strategically) as well as those of our unique grounds and of our Arts and Crafts heritage.
- The last building project in the school, the Juniors' Clock House and Nursery block, was completed in 2011. Prior to this, the school invested in its science provision.
- The outdoor sports provision was last updated by means of the renovation of the full size astro turf pitch in 2014.
- The Hall was fully refurbished, a new Reception and approaches including car park, gates and railings were completed in 2017.

The school has identified a number of areas which require further investment in a balanced programme of conservation, adaptation, renovation and development. The phasing and timing of this programme are now under review.

How is the school delivering this programme?

- The Governors have approved a Ten Year Building Development Master Plan developed, in line with our Mission and Values, by the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team after consultation with staff and pupils and on the advice of experts. The plan works in sympathy with our existing buildings and heritage, prioritising the requirements listed above over three phases. It is recognized that successful Master Plans should be flexible and able to adapt to changing educational needs – as such, the exact nature of each of these phases may continue to evolve over time. They are all subject to planning permission.
- The Trustees of the 1941 Trust are in support of the plan and have already assisted with funding.

What considerations did the school take into account when deciding on prioritising the elements of the programme?

- The prioritisation of the phasing has been in part driven by the needs of the school and in part by the constraints of building on Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). The first phase is therefore adaptations to the current building to achieve a whole school assembly space quickly and to enhance the school's entrance. The second phase is a new build of a Sports Hall which can be built partially on the current building footprint, and the final phase is a new build of a Performing Arts Centre.
- In order to seek planning permissions to build, the school has had to demonstrate Very Special Circumstances (VSC) for the Master Plan in its entirety to the Ealing Planning Authorities and then to the Greater London Authority. The final decision is made by Planning Committee.



Has the school considered the impact on the environment?

- This is an important issue which the school takes very seriously. We have worked closely with ecology consultants, tree specialists and transport consultants to ensure this project reflects sustainability goals and has the minimal environmental impact possible, whilst at the same time answering the needs of the pupils and staff. Additional consultants (such as Energy, Sustainability, Hydrology etc) will be appointed shortly to assist BHM with sustainable design.
- We have also worked within the strict guidelines imposed by Ealing Council with respect to the building on Metropolitan Open Land, demonstrating Very Special Circumstances (VSC).

Has the school considered the impact on residents?

- Our neighbours form part of our community and, indeed, many of them are parents. We are consulting with them on our plans.
- We are committed to a considerate building process.

What is the community benefit of these projects?

- St Augustine's Priory already operates a lettings programme. Our buildings and astro turf pitch are let out year round to schools, local teams and community groups. We also invite state schools in to the school to use our grounds and facilities for retreats or taster days.
- The building programme will significantly enhance the scope and quality of the buildings we will be able to further offer for local community use.