



**Notes from the Headteacher:
Monday 30th January 2012**

New School

I would urge you to read the information about the progress with the building of the New School, which our Project Manager Andrew Smith has kindly put together at the bottom of my notes. It has been 5 months since building work started and Higgins are well on course to hand over our New School by April 2013 for its full opening in September 2013. We can now peer over the hoardings and see the huge crane on site and we will shortly be witnessing the steel frames of the structure being put into place.

Numerous meetings continue to take place at school, in a meeting room at the New School site and at Higgins' Headquarters in Loughton. I will be hoping to don my hard hat, high visibility jacket and reinforced boots to walk round the site in the next few weeks and see these developments up close. I would then hope that we can look forward to giving the opportunity to other staff and deserving students to explore this exciting project as it rises up before our very eyes.

Catherine Wallace from the Local Authority, who has had a great deal of experience with BSF projects, has been meeting with the Senior Leadership Team, Andy Smith and Subject Leaders to undertake essential transition mapping, to ensure we participate actively in the design, furnishing and equipping of all the different areas of the New School. She will be leading a session with key staff on Tuesday 31st January at 3.15 pm, to provide an overview of this.

I will also be meeting with a small group of Governors, who have formed a Working Group for the New School, which is looking at the possible re-branding of the school, which could include a minor name change, a new badge and changes to the uniform, which could coincide with our move to the New School. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1st February. The School Council has also begun to reflect on these ideas offering us their views. Governors are also supporting the school to explore sponsorship for different parts of the school to generate further income to enhance the furniture and equipment we can equip our school with. Erica Jones and Audrey Devlin in our Admin Team, have already started this process, writing letters to major and local companies.

The work continues in earnest and will do so right up to the point we can transfer into our new buildings, but the prospect of the New School does compensate for this additional focus for many of us.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

I was heartened to see so many parents at last week's Year 11 Parents' Evening at such a crucial time in the academic year. All subject areas are working extremely hard to maximise the performance of our students in Controlled Assessments in a number of subjects, in IAAs in Science and of course in final written GCSE papers and BTEC assignments. It is often the case, that students can improve existing marks in these assessments or assignments and in final written papers, but it is important to engage the support of parents to encourage their children to attend additional revision or intervention sessions, improve pieces of work and commit the appropriate time in the final months. This will include after-school sessions, school holidays and Saturdays. We all need to work together to achieve our common goal, which should be that every Year 11 student has the opportunity to achieve their highest possible grade in the subjects they are entered for. We should have high expectations of our students of time, commitment, effort, quantity and quality of work completion and behaviour and high expectations of ourselves to lead them to achievements they will be proud of for the rest of their lives.

Together we can make a difference!

**George Yerosimou
Headteacher**

New School News

Work on site is progressing quickly. Over the last term Higgins have levelled the site, constructed the road access, established a site compound and have laid the foundations. Now we will start to see the building progress upwards as they erect the first of three cranes.

The New School section of our web site includes the latest pictures <http://www.st-johns.info/new-school-gallery.html> and now Higgins have a site office with power we expect the web cam to be available soon so everyone can see the progress.

Andrew Smith – Project Manager