

Bulge Class Update

<http://www.st-marks.ealing.sch.uk/calender-news/bulge-class-information-updates/>

Dear Parents / Carers and St Mark's Staff,

As we approach the end of the term, parent and carers dropping children off at school will have seen that the Bulge Class construction is progressing well. Behind the hoardings, the main building is very near to completion. This will provide a larger kitchen and hall appropriate for a school the size of St Mark's. We will also have three new classrooms on the first floor. The construction work will free up the old hall for other activities – sport, music and other new ideas. You'll find a few more details in the *Bulge Class Update #4* (previous editions available on the Newsletter section of the school website).

We are very pleased with progress to date. The preparation work carried out in the summer 2016 term in advance of construction work, combined with a good working relationship between the school leadership team and the contractors ARJ, has seen the creation of a constructive and mutually supportive relationship. That is not to say that there haven't been challenges: a project of this nature will always have surprises. But by working together we have addressed issues that have arisen and we will continue to be alert to any issues that may arise as we near the finish of the project.

We'd like to say thank you to staff, pupils, parents and carers for adapting to the changing circumstances. We do know that there are times when the construction work has had an impact. Thank you for accommodating these and we hope we can rely on your continued support as we work to improve the facilities that are available to staff and pupils at St Mark's.

Below, we have provided a summary update on activity to date and broad plans going forward. If you have any questions or queries about the Bulge Construction Project, please get in touch either through the school or email the Governors at Governors@st-marks.ealing.sch.uk.

Project Update – Phase 1, 2 Complete. 3 Ready to go

The Bulge Construction Project has three phases starting from the summer 2016 school holidays to the end of the summer 2017 holidays.

Phase 1 was completed over the summer 2016 holidays. Phase 2 is nearing completion with the handing over of the new building to the school on Thursday 20 July. We learnt a great deal from our previous 2012 building work and from other schools, and the work and building is looking very good.

With the end of term Phase 3 will commence. Some of the work scheduled for this phase has already been completed as the contractors ARJ look to complete all possible work early to meet the end of August deadline.

Phase 3 sees reconfiguration of the administration spaces in the office. The office used by Mrs Lonergan and Mrs Englefield is unsuitable both for the work that has to be carried out and as a reception/waiting area for visitors to the school.

Over the summer, the school reception and office will be moved, and various administration spaces will be

modernised and modified. The current kitchen will be stripped and fitted out as flexible meeting and teaching spaces. We will also see the introduction of bike parking and the movement of some shed storage.

A great amount of work and detail has to be covered which is on schedule to be completed on time.

Build Update Evening

We decided not to have a Build Update Evening this term. We appreciate this decision will not be welcomed by some. To those people, we apologise. The last two meetings were not well attended. On balance, it was decided that it was not the best use of the ARJ and Ealing representatives' time to arrange another meeting when the school wants to maximise the use of their resources to the benefit of the build project. If anyone does have any questions, please get in touch through the normal channels.

The questions that were asked at the Build Update Meeting in the Spring term were very important covering asbestos, and traffic and parent/carers parking in St Mark's Court. Any asbestos that has been found in the

school during the construction period has been dealt with inline with statutory requirements, and this information was communicated to parents/carers.

A travel plan has been renewed with the Local Authority, traffic warden attendance at the beginning of the day is regular, a request for further zigzags has been made to Ealing Council and a parking promise has been sent to all parents and carers. The school has also requested that parents/carers do not park on private property through school newsletters.

Thank You

As mentioned earlier, the project has been going very well and – all being well – will be completed without any problems.

From the outset of the project the St Mark's team were hoping for a contractor that we could work with closely in order to have the best for the school while also operating a safe and secure construction site in the heart

of the school. In ARJ we found that contractor. Thank you to Adam Holman, the Site Manager, and to Harry Robinson, Project Manager, at ARJ for supporting our goal of being a place of education and work first. And here's hoping that the summer activity is equally productive!

Finding out the latest on the Bulge Construction Project

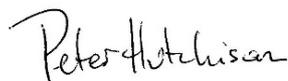
You can find out more information about the Bulge Construction Project on the school website. The school website is home to:

- Termly Bulge Class Newsletter Updates
- ARJ Contractor's Presentations
- School newsletters which show the ongoing school engagement activities

Visit the link below for more information – <http://www.st-marks.ealing.sch.uk/calender-news/bulge-class-information-updates/>

We are currently exploring how we will 'open' the new building. Watch this space.

We hope you find the update interesting and useful. If you have any questions or suggestions relating to anything raised above or on the bulge accommodation, please get in touch with any of the Governors or the Headteacher.



Chair of the Governing Body



Headteacher