



Dear Parents and Carers.

### INSET Day:

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February is a whole school INSET day when school will be closed to students. Colleagues will be trained on a variety of adaptive teaching strategies linked to resilience designed to develop and stretch students to meet their potential. This will be followed up by workshops with students in Years 7 to 9.

### Daily updates:

As often as possible we post to our Facebook page about the many weekly successes or experiences taking place across the school and encourage you to follow us via our page... [Link to Le Rocquier School Facebook Page](#)

### Governors Update

Our Board of Governors plays an important role in ensuring the school is well run and maintains high governance standards. Recently I circulated an opportunity for new members to join and I am delighted parents have come forward willing to be 'Parent Governors'. As the number of vacancies matched the number of applicants, an election was not required this time.

The new Parent Governors are Melanie Bull and Ross Henderson who join Rebecca Dolan as our 3 Parent Governors.

Melanie's application included...

*I am a champion of the States school system in Jersey and want to help the school in maintaining and improving standards across the education experience for all students. I currently support Grouville primary as a member of their parent forum, I helped edit their Handbook, volunteer for PSA events and have joined discussion groups to address parent survey feedback. I'm a qualified accountant, currently a COO for a fast paced Fintech firm and bring to the table senior level board experience, risk and control management - and a willingness to listen, learn and help where I can.*

Ross wrote...

*With a diverse background spanning sport science, academia, property development and finance, coupled with an unwavering belief in the paramount importance of education, I am confident in my ability to contribute positively to the school's governance. I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate with fellow governors, the school and stakeholders to ensure the continued success and growth of Le Rocquier where my daughters will attend for many years to come.*

We all wish Melanie and Ross every success.

We have also had a change of Staff Governor. We thank Mrs Mansfield for giving up her time over the last 3 years and now welcome Mr Lodge to the Governing Body for a 3 year term.

I am in the process of setting up a new Governors area of the Website and will circulate this once complete with the full list of Governors along with more information on how you can get involved with the Governors.

### Uniform:

There has been much written in the press about one of our uniform suppliers closing. In the background I have been working hard to ensure our supply of uniform is secure and, most importantly for me, accessible locally. I am pleased to confirm that **Lyndale Sports** will continue to supply our uniform. I will be working with Lyndale to ensure we meet the new uniform policy. The number of branded items we have is limited, but we will still review our items over the next 2 years to meet the new policy. I will continue to look for a second supplier, but at the moment this would be a UK supplier which brings with it hidden issues of accessibility to try items on, costs of delivery and returning items which do not fit (around £4.99 per item each way) along with other implications which need to be looked at carefully as these costs mount up for families.

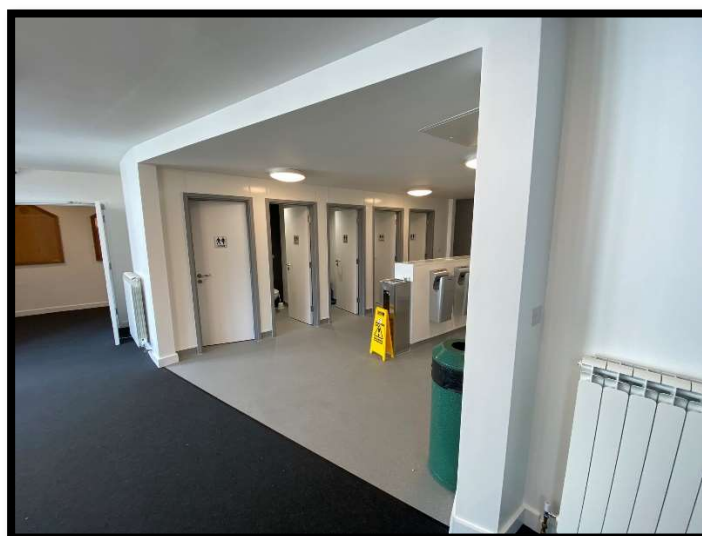
JSSK at Le Quennevais are still selling our uniform until they close, so please call in.

### Toilets:

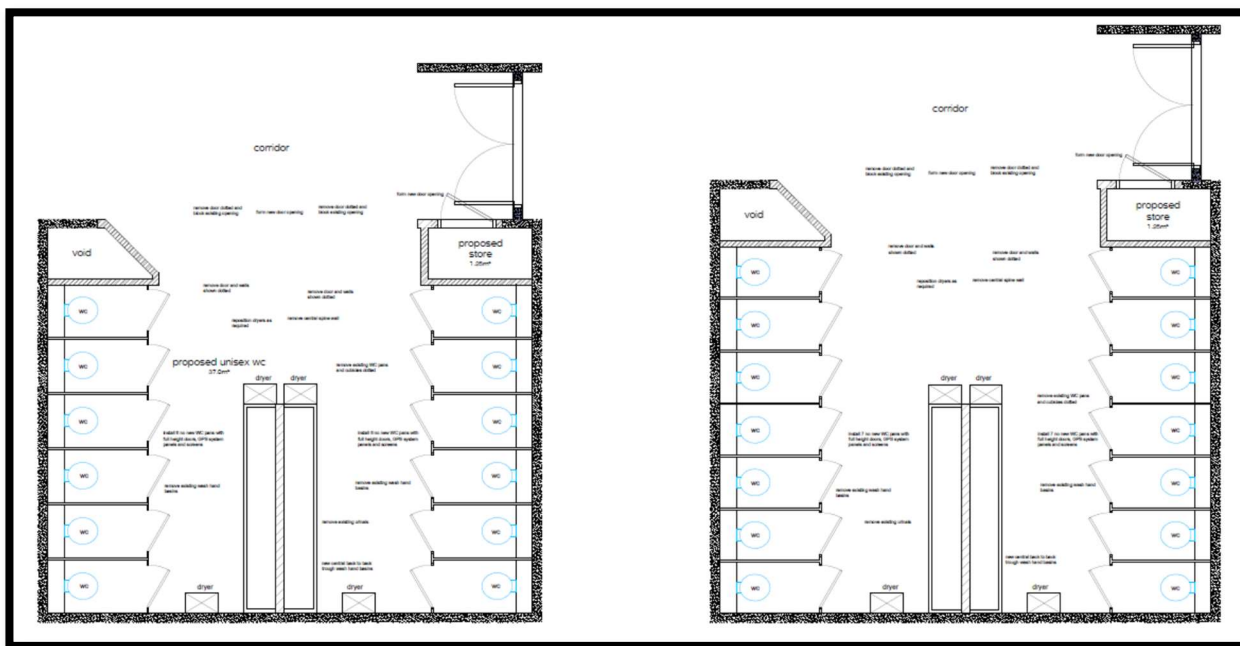
Toilets might be an odd topic to communicate home about but it is an important area that we have been discussing a lot in school, especially with students and I have mentioned this in previous newsletters. A few years back our Student Council started to look at where students felt uncomfortable, where bullying could take place and where we needed to improve facilities due to age and wear. Our toilets kept coming up in student voice surveys and it's come up regularly since then. The School Council has worked on exploring these issues and have come to the conclusion that the design of the toilets needs to be changed and the toilets themselves were dated and needed refreshing. The toilets design makes it difficult for staff to supervise adequately, and some students seem to use the area as a social place due to being 'out of sight'. This social gathering then makes others uncomfortable. While our main toilets are behind two sets of doors, we also have many single toilets which open direct onto the corridors, and these are preferred due to their design. Other Island schools are slightly ahead of us on this journey and have already converted their main toilets to a more modern design which has reduced the issues and concerns in those schools.

Having worked with the previous Student Council, plans are progressing (see below) to open up our toilet areas, move to closed cubicles with floor to ceiling sides and increase the number of toilets overall via better use of the space.

This is how Haute Vallee School have improved their facilities and ours will look similar, but with more cubicles as our available space is bigger:



Below are the plans for both of our main toilets on the ground floor. Other toilet areas will remain unchanged:



Our next step will be to plan for the works to happen over a holiday as the changes will be substantial due to the increase in cubicles. If availability of builders means we do this in term time, we will hire in portable loos and the works will be managed. Both students and staff feel these changes will make a significant difference, therefore we need to get the work done in conjunction with Jersey Property Holdings.

While on the subject of buildings, we continue to work hard on replacing our aging sports block. This block opened in 1975 and is well past its prime. When I have a progress update to share, we will be in touch.

### Whole School IT:

By the end of the upcoming half term break, new Smart Boards will have been installed in every teaching room in the school. This is a significant improvement on the old projectors and the functionality of these boards means students see learning materials more easily and the interactivity offers teachers lots of different ways to present information in an engaging way. We are constantly looking at new ideas, sharing IT teaching and learning best practice, with our own IT CPD weekly published on staff team. A big thank you to the many teaching staff helping to support colleagues in developing their IT skills, particularly the MFL team who continue to help drive IT creativity.

### Contacting School:

A reminder that if you need to contact school with a learning concern, please contact the subject teacher in the first instance. Should you have a welfare or more broader concern please contact the Form Tutor and they can advise you who you may need to speak with. Otherwise, please call or email our Reception who can point you in the right direction as well, perhaps to our Safeguarding, Attendance or Welfare teams. Contact details can be found on our website.

### Other news:

Year 11 raised just short of £600 towards their Prom by packing bags at our local Waitrose. Well done to all involved.

World book day is coming up on the 7<sup>th</sup> March and students are encouraged to dress up as their favourite character. Staff always make a good effort on this day, and we are all looking forward to it.

Year 11 have their second set of formal Mock Exams starting Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Revision should be well underway for all Year 11 students. Information about the mocks has already been sent home. Good luck to Year 11.

Best wishes,

Andrew Adkin  
Headteacher