

November 2008

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

The Board of Management has asked me to keep you up to date on the present situation with regard to the New School Building Project. This project began in the early 1990s and a comprehensive survey was undertaken in November 2000 as a result of the poor state of many parts of the existing buildings. The Department of Education and Science agreed at that stage with the recommendation from the survey team that the best and most economic solution was a new school. A Design Team was approved, and since then the school has pursued the project continuously and enthusiastically.

After long and painstaking negotiations involving the school, our Design Team and the Department of Education detailed plans for the new building were submitted to the Planning and Building Unit of the Department, and our Design Team made a full presentation of those plans to the Department Architects in August 2007. The Department raised some issues with the Design Team, and these have been subsequently addressed.

The Department accepts that the next move is in their hands; but they have indicated that they could do nothing until after the recent Budget. What we are desperately waiting for is clearance from the Department to proceed to the Planning Permission stage of the new school.

There have been long and frustrating delays for the whole school community in reaching this stage, and the Board of Management will be contacting our local TDs and Councillors asking them for their good offices in advancing progress towards our new school. The new PTA Committee will also be considering the situation and possible parental involvement in highlighting our frustrations, while the condition of the present school inevitably continues to deteriorate.

The Board of Management and our Architects and Design Team, along with our teachers, parents, pupils and the whole school family, want to see this important project brought to a fruitful conclusion in the shortest time possible.

Yours sincerely

Derek Lowry
Principal