

23 June 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

### **Construction of New School Buildings for DGSB**

I am absolutely delighted to be able to inform you that I have now received written confirmation that contracts between the Department for Education and Kier have been executed and work on our new school will begin next Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Some 18 months ago I attended a meeting in the Library with Les Craggs, our Chair of Governors, and representatives of KCC, Dover District Council and the DfE at which it became painfully apparent that our much hoped for new build was in danger of being cancelled. At that same meeting, Mr Craggs and I both laid bare to colleagues the absolute and dire need for new facilities to replace the cramped and decaying buildings in which we currently work.

The work which has been done by a huge number of people since that November 2019 meeting to get us to this point has been nothing short of miraculous.

I would therefore like to pay tribute to several people whose immense support and hard work has got us to the point where I am able to write this letter.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Les Craggs our Chair of Governors, and the entire Governing Body for the support they have given me in my endeavours and to the school more widely to get our new build approved. Without them we would not be where we are today.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Angela Hopps, Colin Heal and latterly Tahmina Begum at the Department for Education who have all worked tirelessly over the last 18 months to get our project over the line. Liz Gibney, our principal architect at Lee Evans Partnership, and her colleagues have gone way above the call of duty to ensure that the buildings we will see rise from the top field represent the history and local importance of DGSB's site and the school's standing within the community. Greg Jeeves and his colleagues at Kier have been incredibly supportive and I would like to pay particular tribute to Martin Jones at Kier who very sadly is currently in hospital in London suffering from Covid-19; all of us at DGSB wish Martin a speedy recovery.

I would like to thank all of my staff who have never given up on this project, despite many of them having experienced disappointment when we missed out on "Building Schools for the Future" funding at the last minute in the late 2000s, and the non-appearance of a new sports hall a few years ago. They, like our students, deserve this success.

Finally, I would like to thank *you* for your support over the last 18 months. As a result, new buildings, massively improved facilities and the opportunity to offer subjects which we have never been able to offer before are about to become a much deserved and long-awaited reality.

Yours faithfully

Phil Horstrup