

24th May 2024



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Dear Parent / Carer,

Landau Forte Greenacres Update and Q&A after open session

We have reached the May half term break and I hope that you will all have the chance to enjoy time with your family over the next week. This term has been challenging for us at Greenacres and I wanted to thank you all for your support and send a big thank you home for all of our wonderful children who have behaved so brilliantly throughout the changes. The staff at both Amington and QEMs have done a fantastic job of supporting us as their guests and we look forward to some of the activities that we have planned over the final summer term.

As you will know, we held some parent sessions at Landau Forte Amington on Wednesday and I would like to thank everyone who attended. It was great to see so many people take the time and to come and support us.

I hope you will agree that it was a very positive and informative evening. Thank you also to everyone who emailed us to thank us for arranging the session.

Obviously, the situation presented to us before Easter with our buildings is far from ideal and we are all very aware that it has caused disruption and stress for all our families. I would like to thank all of you for your patience over the past few months.

For those parents who were not able to attend on Wednesday, or for those who would like to know what was discussed, we enclose below a list of questions and answers from the sessions.

We are all looking forward to having more stability for our pupils, parents and staff from September and are working hard to secure this.

We hope that you have a lovely break and I look forward to being able to share more information with you all soon.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Bridge

Sarah Findlay-Cobb

Principal

CEO

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Questions from Parent session, 22nd May 2024

What is the issue with the Greenacres building?

Following drainage works in the Easter holidays, further issues with the Greenacres site have been identified and we are awaiting the results of tests for subsidence as well as other structural and foundation tests.

Is it safe for Reception and Year 1 to still be at the Greenacres site?

Yes, the modular buildings are safe and play areas are designated to be separate from the main building. The main building is not being entered except for works access and we continue to monitor the building to ensure that it remains safe to be on site.

What options are there for September? What is plan B?

We are working with the DfE on a solution to locate modular buildings on the Amington site as a Greenacres designated school 'village'. The DfE have confirmed that they are confident that this will be the implemented solution.

What is Plan B?

It would be to split the children across sites again. However this not a solution that can work in the long term and this is not the solution that is being focussed on.

How will you ensure little children are kept away from teenagers?

The areas being suggested at Amington are currently not used by the Amington students.

Everything will be separate. We will arrive/leave at different times, breaks and lunch times will be at different times.

Greenacres will be fenced off from Amington and there will be separation between the two.

Greenacres and Amington will work closely together to ensure there are no issues.

Will the school be a secure compound as it is now?

Yes, we will have the same safety measures as we do now.

How long will this be for?

It will be for at least one year, as repairs to the existing school/building a new school is a lengthy process.

Can you procure temporary buildings in time?

The Trust have worked to make this happen and now just need approval (and funding) from the DfE for this to go ahead. There will be a number of approvals to seek and this is what is currently underway.

What about if it doesn't happen in time?

The DfE's priority is for face-to face education. The DfE have resources available if something fell through with the Trust's plans.

How does the General Election impact the decision?

The DfE can still make emergency/urgent decisions, and this is one of those.

Will this all fall through?

The Trust and DfE are working hard to ensure that the preferred solution is achieved. The DfE will make recommendations and seek approval. Those reviewing the options will be aware of the challenges associated with each option and the recommendation from both the Trust and the DfE which is the same. The DfE are supporting the Trust and are very positive about the identified solution.

How will this be funded? What is the deadline date?

A funding decision will be made in June at which time we will update parents. It is likely that this will be funded by the DfE.

What are the options longer term?

That depends on ground and other surveys and what we continue to find out about the existing building and the land it is built on. This all takes a long time, which is why medium-term plans need to be made for September and all of the next academic year.

With all of the investment into the modular buildings, is it likely that the modular buildings will become permanent?

This is not likely and is not part of any current planning.

Is there a chance Greenacres will cease to exist?

A new school build is £20-25 million so these decisions are not taken lightly. Current information suggests that there is a need for Greenacres to continue operating.

How will it impact the high school students?

The Amington grounds are big enough to allow Greenacres to have their own space. Greenacres will remain as a separate school.

Does this mean the children will be at school longer?

No, the school day will remain the same. At most, we envision the timings of the school day changing by a few minutes to reduce any crossover at drop-off and collection times.

What are the advantages of being on the Amington site?

Greenacres will be able to utilise some of the Amington facilities, such as the theatre for productions.

The majority of Greenacres children go to LFA Amington and therefore transition will be improved.

Who is going to teach the Greenacres children?

The staffing at Greenacres will not change.

Although Mr Deen has appointed four new Primary teachers for September, they will be working within the secondary school and not part of the Greenacres staff. This will however assist with transition.

Is the new school, Garden Village, not an option?

No, there is not enough space for all of the Greenacres children. This option was looked at, alongside many other options, as part of the robust work that has taken place to secure face-to-face teaching for the children.

What mental health support is available for the children?

The school has a team of staff, trained in mental health support, and there are other services we can look into.

All staff make the mental well-being of our children a priority.

Will The Hive continue? Will the holiday club continue?

Yes, from the modular buildings.

Will there be support with transporting the children to school?

Yes, we will provide a walking bus for the first year.

Will there be toilets in the modular buildings?

Yes, they will be internal so the children will not have to go outside.

Will the children still be eating in the classrooms?

No, there is a hall and kitchen as part of the modular building.

What is the plan for what the school will look like? Can we see photos of the modular buildings?

Yes, once we have had approval, we are keen to share plans and photos of the solution.

Will the term dates change?

No, they will remain the same.

What will the food be like?

We will have our own kitchen and our own kitchen staff, so will be able to return to our normal meals.

How do I contact Louise Bridge and Sarah Findlay-Cobb?

post@lfatg.org.uk

Are you still doing Shrek?

Unfortunately not, but we are planning to put on an alternative show for three nights. Information about this will be sent out shortly.

Will classes be mixed for September?

No, we recognise the disruption this year has caused for the children and therefore we can see the benefits of not mixing them for September.

There were also a few questions relating to individual children and the current situation, which were addressed. If there are any other concerns or worries about the current situation, please get in touch with your child's class teacher, or Mrs Bridge.