Loreto Sixth Form College

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THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES 2006

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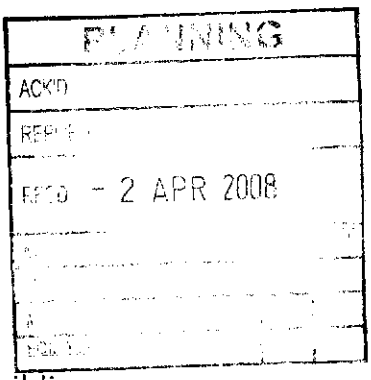
March 31st 2008

Mr Dave Morris
Planning Department
Manchester City Council
PO Box 463
Town Hall Extension
Manchester M60 3NY



Dear Dave

Application for a temporary modular building

As I explained to you when we spoke two weeks ago we are confident that if we are not oversubscribed for September 2008 then we will certainly be pushed to our limit [but we can't be certain of the impact at this stage] .

We are currently trying to contain everything in our existing buildings but being conscious at the same time that we might need to implement a temporary action plan during the summer when things become more certain.

One of the one trends we are certain about is that there is a shift in demand to science based courses [with little obvious down turn elsewhere] and in spite of some creative timetabling we don't think we have sufficient accommodation for that curriculum area. We have managed this academic year [2007 -2008] to accommodate most of that shift in demand in our main building by some internal remodelling following the opening of the art centre building.

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However we seem to be faced with yet more demand shift from Sept 2008 so in the short term we may need to create two extra general classrooms so that we can provide alternative accommodation adjacent to the main building and give us a little flexibility.

We have a broad three phase plan which we are going to try and implement over the next twelve - twenty four months to deal with the curriculum shift in demand and to generally create more space to enable us to provide our current students with the LSC's space norms..

The first phase [which we are currently working on to have in place for Sept 2008] is a college timetable review which might give us a little more ' space' to try and fit classes into - but we've already done a similar exercise last year so we're not confident that it will generate much more space if any.

The second phase [which we briefly talked about] is to seek a temporary planning permission [the application for that permission is attached] for a new single storey portable classroom block [containing two classrooms] for use from Sept 2008 for two years if needed. This again would give us 'space' and a little flexibility and allow us time to create a longer term solution which will be the subject of a major planning application.

The temporary block would be a fully accessible [via a ramp] general classroom block only and, given the proposed proximity to other buildings, with all other facilities available in the adjacent building. The particular location has been chosen so that it doesn't take away from green space / overall car parking [and it allows for two disabled bays which would be affected to be relocated outside the main building].

The third phase would involve new building works to the south of the Chapel and art centre building [which is within the City boundary and for which, as you will be aware from our other discussions, a separate planning application will be forthcoming very soon].

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You will see from the application that we are seeking a two year temporary permission - that would allow us to run two classrooms either from Sept 2008 or from Sept 2009 if needed and give us time to apply to the City Council for another building [which, as you know, we are seeking to locate on the eastern part of the site parallel to Chichester Rd South and of course time to build it!].

I hope you have sufficient information to help with the determination of the application but please contact me if I can help with any further information.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Best wishes

Tom McGee.

Tom McGee
Estates & Special Projects Manager

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