
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning	Date:	1 November 2011
Report By:	Corporate Director Education and Communities	Report No:	EDUC/45/11/WB
Contact Officer:	Wilma Bain (Head of Education)	Contact No:	01475 712891
Subject:	Report on Clydeview Academy, Notre Dame High School and the Port Glasgow Temporary Shared Campus (St Stephen's High School and Port Glasgow High School)		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 As requested by members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee at their meeting on 6 September 2011, this report provides information on 3 key projects associated with the School Estate Management Plan, namely:

- The temporary shared campus for St Stephen's High School and Port Glasgow High School (Appendix 1)
- The new Clydeview Academy (Appendix 2)
- The new Notre Dame High School (Appendix 3)

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 A temporary shared campus had been established on the site of St Stephen's High School to accommodate St Stephen's High School and Port Glasgow High School from August 2011. This is to allow a new shared campus to be built on the former site of Port Glasgow High School. The new shared campus (scheduled to open in August 2013) will provide a state-of-the-art learning environment for pupils from St Stephen's High School and Port Glasgow High School. In addition, there will be a new school for pupils with additional support needs.

2.2 Greenock Academy and Gourock High School amalgamated in August 2011 to form the newly built Clydeview Academy which is located in Burnside Road, Gourock. Clydeview Academy opened to pupils on 30 June 2011.

2.3 Notre Dame High School, following a 2 year decant to the former Wellington Academy building in Dempster Street, moved into a new building (on its former site in Dunlop Street) which opened to pupils on 4 May 2011.

2.4 The reports on the Port Glasgow temporary shared campus, Clydeview Academy, and Notre Dame High School focus on 7 key areas:

- Accommodation
- Timetabling/curriculum
- Lunchtime provision
- School transport
- Fire drill evacuation
- Lockers
- Sports Pitches

Due to concerns raised by some parents regarding the over capacity situation in Clydeview Academy, information on corridor movement has been added to this school's

report.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee is asked to note the information in this report.

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director of Education and Communities

APPENDIX 1

REPORT ON THE PORT GLASGOW TEMPORARY SHARED CAMPUS For Members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee November 2011

Background

At the end of June 2011 Port Glasgow High School moved to the site of St Stephen's High School to form what will be a temporary shared campus for a period of 2 years. The move by Port Glasgow High School was to allow a new shared campus for Port Glasgow High and St Stephen's High Schools to be built on the former Port Glasgow High School site. In addition, the new shared campus will include a new amalgamated school for pupils with additional support needs (formed from the current Glenburn and Lilybank special schools). The new shared campus is scheduled for completion in July 2013.

The temporary shared campus opened for pupils on 18 August 2011. The current pupil rolls for both schools (pre Census) are as follows:

Port Glasgow High School – Pupil Roll (pre Census)

S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Total
92	77	101	95	91	41	497

St Stephen's High School – Pupil Roll (pre Census)

S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Total
103	84	95	118	99	51	550

These rolls will be adjusted, if required, following the publication of the September 2011 census data.

Both schools have separate janitorial teams who work jointly as and when required.

Accommodation

The temporary shared campus is fully operational and all classes are timetabled and accommodated.

A programme of refurbishment and adaptations took place last session to enable the St Stephen's High School building to accommodate Port Glasgow High School. The main elements of the work undertaken were as follows:

- Provision of 4 temporary classroom blocks (8 classes in total) for Maths, Modern Languages and RE classes
- Provision of a reception and offices for Port Glasgow High School

APPENDIX 1

- An extended more accessible dining area to provide for the extra number of pupils
- Other minor works were undertaken to ease the pressure on the St Stephen's High School building such as adaptations inside the PE block to create a staff base

All planned adaptations and additional accommodation works have been completed except for additional acoustic measures in the Port Glasgow High School Music practice rooms. Plans for this work are now in hand.

There are a number of small outstanding snagging issues which are being resolved by IT and Property Services.

Senior staff will continue to have a high presence at class changeover times to monitor corridor movement and ensure pupils get to their classes safely and on time.

Accommodation in PE is proving problematic particularly when the weather is poor. The use of the Assembly Hall is currently being explored as a possible solution to this matter.

Timetabling/curriculum

The timetabling provision for both schools is working well including an agreed sharing of specialist areas.

Lunchtime Provision

Lunchtime provision is going better than anticipated. Canteen staff are operating the services very well and the facilities are coping with the number of pupils resulting in lunch being served for all pupils by 12.55 pm. Pupils from both schools are mixing well in the seating areas.

Some parents have expressed concern about the queuing arrangements that are in place and the fact that access routes to the lunch area have had to be divided. To alleviate congestion problems in the lunch area it has been agreed that St Stephen's High School pupils will enter by the A Block entrance and Port Glasgow High School will enter by the Enterprise Centre door since most are coming from B Block. This has meant that some Port Glasgow High pupils have had to walk around the outside of the building to get to the B Block designated access point for the lunch area.

School Transport

Currently there are no apparent issues with school transport provision.

Access to and from the temporary shared campus is congested as some parents are not heading advice to stay away from the campus entrance and use the Burnside Avenue drop-off area. Both schools continue to be pro-active in terms of this issue. There is a visible presence of senior school staff who are monitoring the departure of pupils from the shared campus at the end of school day; a leaflet has been issued to all parents about travel and transport arrangements; and additional signage is going up to deter parents from parking within the shared campus grounds. A park and stride area in Marloch Avenue is currently under construction.

APPENDIX 1

Fire Drill Evacuation

A successful pre-planned fire drill took place on 2 September 2011. The temporary shared campus buildings were evacuated in 4 minutes.

Lockers

There is limited locker provision in the temporary shared campus. Full locker provision is planned for the new shared campus.

Sports Pitches

The temporary shared campus is currently operating with a 2G pitch.

Conclusion

The early signs are promising for the temporary shared campus. Both Head Teachers have expressed positive views about how the 2 schools are co-existing within the temporary shared campus and they are pleased to report that the social interaction between pupils of both schools is going very well.

Procedures are place to deal with the management of the temporary shared campus through weekly meetings between the Head Teachers of both schools, and regular liaison with the School Estate Team.

APPENDIX 2

REPORT ON CLYDEVIEW ACADEMY For Members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee November 2011

Background

Greenock Academy and Gourock High School amalgamated in August 2011 to form the new Clydeview Academy - a newly built school in Gourock with excellent facilities for learning and teaching in the 21st century. The associated primary schools are Moorfoot, Gourock and Ardgowan primary schools.

The decision to amalgamate Greenock Academy and Gourock High School was taken by the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in January 2005. It was proposed to build a new non-denominational secondary school with a capacity of 950 on the site of what was then St Columba's High School. It was also agreed that the school rolls of Gourock High School and Greenock Academy be capped with an annual intake limited to 100 (Gourock High School) and 80 (Greenock Academy). The use of capping was intended to reduce the joint rolls of Greenock Academy and Gourock High School over time so that when Clydeview Academy opened it would not be in an over capacity situation. However, because this capping did not take effect until the school intake in August 2008, the delay in capping and the subsequent difficulties faced by the Council in trying to enforce capping has resulted in the current situation where Clydeview Academy has opened with a roll above the original design capacity of 950.

In the middle of 2007, the current Education and Lifelong Learning Committee unanimously supported the earlier decision to build a new non-denominational secondary school on the site of St Columba's High School with a capacity of 950. Both the council and the parent body of Greenock Academy rejected a proposal for a bigger school to be built. The Council's decision to reject this proposal was based on the detrimental impact such a decision would have on the long-term rolls of other secondary schools in Inverclyde.

Although the original design capacity for Clydeview Academy was 950, the actual capacity calculated using the Standard Circular 3.2 "The Capacity of Secondary Schools" is projected to be 990. The current roll is slightly over 1200 pupils. Members were fully aware through previous committee reports that in the first few years of the school's operation, the roll would exceed the design capacity. The council decided it prudent that in the medium to long term it was appropriate that the school's design capacity should not exceed 990. This was decided in the context of the overall School Estate's Management Plan and associated projections. Placing requests for Clydeview Academy were granted in line with the Council's Policy on Admission and Pupil Placement in Mainstream Schools (2009).

The breakdown of the current pupil roll for Clydeview Academy is as follows:

Clydeview Academy – Pupil Roll					Capacity - 990	
S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Total
161*	192	221	193	249	186	1202

* The capping limit for the S1 intake is 180.

APPENDIX 2

Education Services are working closely with Legal Services to consider steps to be taken to ensure the school roll falls to the capacity level by 2014. It is anticipated that a paper on roll projections and capping for Clydeview Academy will be prepared for the next meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in January 2012.

Some parents have expressed views about the school operating at over capacity and have raised particular issues regarding congestion in the lunch area during lunchtime and the impact the current pupil roll is having on learning and teaching.

While Clydeview Academy has opened at over capacity, the school can and is working with the current pupil roll. The school has been built to a very high standard, which includes a larger floor area than similar role-sized schools in neighbouring local authorities, and complies with all technical standards.

In response to letters of from parents, the Watch Commander from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Community Safety has visited the school on 3 occasions. He advised the Council Health and Safety Officer that he is satisfied with the construction of the building and the physical fire safety measures and procedures that are in place.

Following consultation with the school senior management team and statutory bodies it is clear that there is no need for additional temporary accommodation. Such action would be problematic for the school. Apart from unnecessary disruption to the current Clydeview Academy site in terms of access, contractors on site, noise, changes to the existing landscape and loss of external space, additional temporary accommodation would result in classes being taught separately from the main school building creating management issues for the Head Teacher and his Senior Management Team.

Corridor Movement

As with all schools, Clydeview Academy staff are on hand throughout the school day observing corridor movement.

In response to concerns raised by parents, two visits were made to Clydeview Academy during the week beginning 19 September 2011 by Council Health and Safety Officers to observe corridor movement and lunchtime arrangements.

The Health and Safety Team Leader reported that some of the biggest areas of potential congestion are the two stairwells leading to and from the Social Area at lunchtimes and breaks. While undertaking observation, the Health and Safety Team Leader noted that pupils exited these stairwells smoothly, and they did not appear cramped or excessively crowded. She did not witness any crowding or jostling which was any different to that she has noted at similar times in other schools. The social area cleared within a couple of minutes of the bell ringing demonstrating that the pupils were not being hampered in their exit.

The officers confirmed that while the lunch area was very busy they did not have any safety concerns as a result of the number of young people using the lunch area.

APPENDIX 2

Fire Drill Evacuation

On Friday 16 September 2011, Clydeview Academy conducted a pre-planned fire drill. The views of the Health and Safety Officer, who was present during the fire drill, and the Head Teacher are that the evacuation procedures went well. Staff and pupils evacuated the school building in just over 4 minutes. The evacuation appeared to be smooth with a constant stream of pupils exiting the building from various designated fire exits. These fire exits coincided with the ones marked on the fire evacuation plan. It was noted that some stairwells at the end of the building were used by a larger number of pupils than expected. Signage will be put in place to direct pupils to use the most appropriate stairwell.

There was slight congestion at the entrance to the muster point. However this did not hamper the overall evacuation or cause any safety concerns. Advice has been given to the Head Teacher by Health and Safety Officers on this matter and the situation has been improved.

In accordance with good practice, the school plans to hold a second fire drill before the Christmas break; this will provide an opportunity to test and evaluate the improved evacuation procedures.

Lunchtime Provision

As is the case in all schools, the lunch area is busy. Lunch arrangements in Clydeview Academy have been closely monitored by the school's Senior Management Team and adaptations to lunchtime arrangements have been made as a result. Extra tables and chairs have been provided for the lunch area and the Assembly Hall has been opened up for those pupils bringing a packed lunch. The catering staff have responded to pupil demand for lunches and have put in place arrangements to serve the most popular dish from more than one serving area. Lunch break starts at 12.35 pm and finishes at 1.15 pm. To date all pupils have been served for lunch by 1.00 pm. Additional catering staff resources have recently been approved.

Architects have been looking at removing a 'breakfast bar-type' fixture in the lunch area to create additional space which will assist with queuing arrangements and movement in the social area.

Timetabling/Curriculum Issues

The accommodation within the new building has proven to be more than sufficient as concluded by the report and 'mock' timetable produced by an independent expert during 2010. The main conclusions of the report and timetabling exercise were:

- The curriculum can be timetabled within the new school building without detriment to delivery
- The curriculum can be delivered with no negative impact on Learning and Teaching
- There is no need to transport any pupil out with the school for specialist or other accommodation
- There is no need to provide any temporary accommodation
- There will be no restriction on subject choice from what is currently offered at present in both Gourrock High School and Greenock Academy
- The analysis of all curriculum areas maximised the potential pupil numbers to ensure that the new school could deliver in all perceivable realistic scenarios.

APPENDIX 2

The quality of learning and teaching has not been compromised by the number of pupils in Clydeview Academy. All pupils have been timetabled, all classes are accommodated, and all class sizes are in line with associated regulations and agreements. Classrooms provide a well-equipped learning environment for the 21st century. Learning and teaching is further enhanced through the provision of well-designed tutorial areas which support small group work and promote independent learning. It should be noted that when tutorial areas are being used by teachers, standard classroom accommodation is also available.

Lockers

Some parents have made comments regarding the availability and allocation of lockers in Clydeview Academy. The provision of pupil lockers is not a statutory requirement. However, Inverclyde Council has taken the view that locker provision offers a sensible solution to the storage of pupil materials and to this end has provided the school with a significant number of lockers. It is noted that not all pupils wish to avail themselves of locker provision. The school has confirmed that all pupils requesting locker access have now been provided with lockers.

The parental issue regarding lockers is related to those pupils who came from Greenock Academy. Some parents have reported that they paid a deposit of £40 to Greenock Academy so that their son/daughter could have access to a locker during their time in Greenock Academy. Now that their son/daughter has moved to Clydeview Academy, some parents are claiming that the deposit of £40 that they paid to Greenock Academy is now returnable. Some of these parents are also objecting to having to pay a returnable deposit of £5 to Clydeview Academy in order for their son/daughter to have access to a locker.

The former DHT of Greenock Academy and the former Chair of the Greenock Academy Parent Council have confirmed that the £40 deposit paid to Greenock Academy was non-returnable. It seems that the £40 deposit was used to re-coup the cost of replacing damaged lockers and ensuring there were enough lockers available for all pupils in Greenock Academy. Over the last couple of years, the required deposit for lockers in Greenock Academy was reduced to £20, £10 and £5 respectively due to the pending amalgamation with Gourock High School.

School Transport

Members of the Senior Management Team supervise the departure of buses at the end of the school day.

The current issues regarding transport revolve around bus passes. SPT have been in touch with the bus operators to ensure that they have already issued or will shortly be issuing bus passes. Bus operators have been advised that bus drivers are expected to ensure that pupils boarding their bus should have a bus pass.

Although 31 August 2011 was the deadline for applications for privilege bus passes, we are still waiting for SPT to provide us with the information we need to be able to allocate any places.

APPENDIX 2

Sports Pitches

Following consultation with stakeholders, which included school senior managers and parents from both Gourock High School and Greenock Academy, a mix of pitches were selected including a grass park which can be used for rugby and football, and a 2G pitch. Consultation also took place with Sportscotland who favoured a grass park.

Conclusion

The current situation of over capacity in Clydeview Academy is being carefully managed and there is no need for additional temporary accommodation.

A working group has been set up involving senior officers from Education Services and Legal Services to look at roll projections and capping for the next 3 years in order to progressively reduce the pupil roll to the school's capacity level.

As with all schools, issues of corridor movement and lunchtime arrangements will continue to be monitored by senior managers in the school and appropriate Council officers, and where required adaptations will be made.

Efforts will continue to be made to address transport issues through liaison with SPT.

All parental views have been considered and appropriately addressed. The Head Teacher of Clydeview Academy and members of Education Services' Senior Management Team are confident that Clydeview Academy will continue to provide a high quality education for all of its pupils within an excellent state-of-the-art learning environment.

APPENDIX 3

REPORT ON NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL For Members of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee November 2011

Background

The new Notre Dame High School is an 850 capacity secondary school replacing the old building on the same site at Dunlop Street, and incorporates the 40 place Stella Maris Communication and Language Unit.

Work on the new school commenced in July 2009. Following a 2 year decant to the former Wellington Academy building, the new Notre Dame High School was completed in May 2011. It opened to pupils on 6 June 2011. The current pupil roll (pre Census) is 805, broken down into pupil cohorts as follows:

Notre Dame High School – Pupil Roll (pre Census)					Capacity - 850	
S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	Total
129*	153	140	136	139	108	805

- The capping limit for the S1 intake is 140.

These rolls will be adjusted, if required, following the publication of the September 2011 census data.

The building has been designed to provide a high quality education provision for both staff and pupils. A range of strategies have been incorporated in the design to reduce energy consumption, making the building much more sustainable.

Accommodation

Teachers are very happy with their classrooms and the space available to them, and pupils are very happy with the school; a fact that has been commented on by several visitors to the school in terms of the atmosphere and very positive ethos across the school.

There are minimal and minor accommodation issues that are being addressed through regular meetings involving the School Estate Team, FES and the Head Teacher.

Timetabling/curriculum

All pupils are timetabled and all classes accommodated.

There had been some staffing issues which are not unique to Notre Dame High School. These are due to difficulties the authority is facing in filling posts in the subject areas of Home Economics and Chemistry. However, these issues have now been addressed satisfactorily.

APPENDIX 3

Lunchtime Provision

Very few pupils leave the building at lunchtime to use the local food outlets and prefer to remain in the canteen/social area no matter the weather. It is busy and all seats are taken. When there is wet weather there are a few pupils who overspill into surrounding social spaces as there are not enough seats in the main social area. The school is in the process of ordering additional social seating to allow the S5 to have their own social area on the first floor balcony. To date all pupils who have required a school lunch have been served by 1 pm.

School Transport

The school has 4 buses available at the end of the day: 2 on contract and 2 provided through parental arrangements with the authority. The 2 contract buses are nearly full and all pupils have been issued with a bus pass by the bus company. Bus passes are checked by Depute Head Teachers at the end of the school day. Since being able to control access to the buses in this way, there have been very little, if any, concerns raised regarding pupil behaviour on the bus.

Fire Drill Evacuation

To date there have been 2 pre-planned fire drills – one in June and the other more recently, in September. On both occasions the building was evacuated in less than 3 minutes. The evacuation procedures went well and gave no cause for concern.

Lockers

Lockers are in the process of being allocated and it is anticipated that every pupil who wishes a locker will get one.

Sports Pitches

Following consultation with stakeholders, including school senior managers, parents and Sportscotland, Notre Dame High School has a 2G pitch and a 3G pitch.

Conclusion

Notre Dame High School has got off to a good start and there are no serious issues emerging from parents, pupils or staff in relation to the excellent new facilities and outstanding features of the school campus.