

Inclusive Design

Inclusive Design

The aspiration for the proposal is not only to provide a space that provides easy access for multiple needs and is accessible from a building regulations perspective, but one that also creates an inclusive space for the pupils, creating a sense of community and home for the pupils and staff.

Access

The new building will provide an accessible environment for pupils with lift access to all floors and well-connected spaces.

The majority of core facilities for the pupils, including Matron's office and social spaces will be provided at ground floor level to enable ease of access, with residential accommodation and pupil kitchen located on upper levels with good stair and lift access.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing of students and staff is an important driver for the project that provides a supportive environment for academic and pastoral care. A key aspect of wellbeing is fostering the sense of a supportive community, which will be achieved through planning of well-connected spaces and facilities that engender cohesion.

The setting of the project within the landscape together with a carefully curated landscape design seeks to provide views to gardens from bedrooms to encourage a sense of connection to nature. The inside to outside transition between the new and existing buildings provided by the proposed colonnade creates an accessible transition route through the garden and gives opportunities for play and social interactions.

Inclusion

Beyond accessibility, the project aspires to provide a space which is truly inclusive, fostering a sense of community for pupils and staff. The scheme will seek to enable student interaction through the provision of social spaces and encourage a sense of community through approaches to circulation and grouping of student bedrooms around shared facilities. The grouping of bedrooms into interconnected townhouses for each year group creates the opportunity for pupils to interact in smaller groups giving the school the opportunity to house students into groups that would benefit the individuals on a case by case basis. The interconnection and use of communal spaces additionally creates the opportunity for the whole community to come together.

The project will aim to create a well-connected, cohesive community across the site, working with the landscape and existing buildings to provide a high quality, supportive environment for learning.

Sustainability

Sustainability

Responding to Climate Change

The aspiration for the project is to provide a Sustainable, Long-Life, Low Maintenance, Low-Carbon Design. Careful consideration has been given to minimise the carbon in construction and use by the design team. This is achieved through:

- An efficient and effective use of traditional contextual materials
- Minimising the massing and bulk of the building through an efficient design
- Careful consideration of the form factor, air tightness and solar control and heat gain within the design approach;
- An all-electric energy approach with use of air source heat pumps, MVHR ventilation systems, high levels of air tightness and insulation to reduce heating demand;
- Integration of plant facilities in within the building

Landscape

Landscape

Landscape Strategy



Site Layout

Relationship of spaces

The landscape is arranged around a colonnaded cloister space at its centre. The playing field and pedestrian routes are to the south west, terraces for the new boarding house to the west, delivery, day pupil and vehicle access to the east and a link space leading to a quite games lawn and the Deputy Housemaster's apartment to the north east. To the south is a small existing terrace leading from the dining room.

Landscape

Landscape Strategy



Concept

The scheme aims to preserve as much green space as possible so that the 'Country House' feel of Meadhurst Is is retained. Two lawns, the existing one to the south reconfigured for playing active sports and one proposed alongside Ayston Road for quieter games such as croquet and badminton.

The central cloister forms a tranquil heart space surrounded by covered walkways linking old and new buildings. A wall, approximately on the line of the existing building facade, separates delivery and arrival areas from the cloister area. Wherever possible permeable paving and recycled materials have been used, with planting including many native and wildlife-friendly species.

Circulation

The pupil and pedestrian route from the south is an extension of the existing path and leads to the colonnade and the main doors of the two Meadhurst buildings. The delivery and service area is set slightly below this level, leading down to Ayston Road and is accessed via steps through the main entrance to the colonnade or a gently sloped approach further north.

Day pupils are dropped off in this area and alongside the new lawn, approaching the building via a gently sloping path, with vehicles exiting back onto Ayston Road via the car park access.

Landscape

Landscape Treatment



Landscape Treatment

Cloister

Designed as a tranquil heart space surrounded by a cast stone colonnade, the outer walkways are in a clay paver, tying in with the brickwork of the new block and matching tones within the existing building.

Walls and tall hedges give a sense of enclosure and in the centre of the area are planter seats containing multi-stem trees and ground cover planting.

Landscape

Landscape Treatment



West Lawn

Retained and renewed lawn for active sports, mainly football and rugby, this area is bounded by the existing mixed native hedge along the car park and by mature conifers along the path to the south.

Existing young redwood are to be relocated to other areas within the school's grounds and replaced with pleached trees to help prevent balls hitting parked cars. An existing area of planting that is not thriving in the shade will be returned to lawn.

Social Terrace

The south side of the new block looks out over the West lawn and leads out from the social spaces within the building. The area is divided by walls to emphasise the townhouse configuration of the building and seating is configured to view the lawn and to accommodate clustered groups whilst providing a degree of protection from overshooting balls.

At the west end is an area leading to the boot room entrance with a bench and an area where boot scrapers and brushes could be situated. Recycled composite decking is robust and non-slip.

Dining Terrace

The existing area outside the dining room will be screened with a tall hedge against the cloister and a lower one against the lawn to give it a sense of privacy. The porcelain pavers will be carefully cut to form new planters.

Landscape Strategy

Landscape Treatment



Tutor's Garden

The Tutor's garden is accessed from the apartment and from a designated parking space in the main carpark. A high wall separates it from the social terrace and a hedge from the west lawn. The patio area is paved in 400x800mm granite flags to tie in with existing granite-effect porcelain paving that is no longer available. To the north of the garden is a brick enclosure housing Air Source Heat Pump equipment.

Woodland Garden

To the north of the new block is a woodland garden, designed to be looked out on and to attract to wildlife. Mixed native hedging matches the existing hedge around the car park and low-growing woodland species provide an attractive foreground to the building. A path on a gentle slope leads to the plant room for occasional maintenance.

Deputy Housemaster's Garden

This garden has a patio leading out from the apartment paved in 400x800mm granite flags. The garden is higher than its surroundings with a retaining wall along its south and east sides. With a slightly lower yew hedge, this gives a sense of privacy whilst allowing plenty of sunlight. A path leads down to the parking space, substation and switchroom, the latter two being screened by hedges. and the garden is separated form the woodland garden by a mixed native hedge.

Landscape Strategy

Landscape Treatment



Link Space

To the north of the cloister is a link space providing a route to the Deputy Housemaster's apartment, the east lawn and an accessible route to the delivery area and disabled parking. It is bounded by a brick wall, matching the brickwork on the new block, and by tall yew hedges.

The facade of the new block is softened with planting in low raised beds with brick retaining walls and the Deputy Housemaster's door is reached via granite steps and flag paving. The area is paved in a permeable bound gravel to match existing paths.

Service and Delivery Area

The street frontage of the service and delivery area will remain unchanged. A new ramp will lead up to the kitchen and service areas for trolley deliveries from a light van. An existing outbuilding will be repurposed as a new commercial- bin store, convenient for the kitchen and for refuse collection.

The root zones of the existing lime trees will be improved by the removal of a shed and by creating a much larger soft area. The wall divides the area from the cloister and link space, but provides an important link through via a gap and steps.

Landscape Strategy

Landscape Treatment



East Lawn

The east lawn is a new green area in the area of the demolished wing. It has been designed for quiet games such as croquet and badminton where there is no risk of interfering with traffic on Ayston Road. It is partly separated from the delivery area by tall hedges and planting and has a new holly hedge on its east side to continue the one bounding the service area.

A new vehicle route through the area allows a safe one-way system for day pupil drop-off and for deliveries. Drop off laybys are in a fibre-reinforced grass that will withstand vehicular traffic.

A bench at the end of the pedestrian path provides a place to rest and a focal point. New lime trees continue along the frontage with small resistant elms and cultivars of wild cherry enclosing the south and north sides.

Residential Bin store

The bin store has been located close to the access road and to Ayston Road and in the area previously occupied by part of the demolished building. It is intended to re-use the building slab to ensure that the rootzones of existing trees are not affected.

The store will be screened from Ayston Road by a new holly hedge and a gate will allow the area to be used for domestic refuse storage for the Deputy Housemaster and Tutor. A Scots pine will eventually grow to replace the Austrian Pine as it ages.

Landscape Strategy

Accessibility

Accessibility

Access Arrangements

All pedestrian routes are level or gently sloping, with alternative routes for all stepped areas. The new accessible parking space is close to the two building entrances via suitably sloped paths.

Dedicated parking is provided for Housemaster, Deputy Housemaster and Tutors and there is plenty of further staff parking in the existing car park.

Drop off and pickup laybys have been provided for day pupils within easy reach of the buildings and with a one-way system to ease congestion. Cycle parking is provided on the west side of the car park and is covered and lit. Although there are bus stops on Ayton Road within 100m of Meadhurst the service is infrequent so it is unlikely that buses would be used.

Emergency Access

Fire appliance access to the existing building is from Ayston Road and to the new block from the access road to the car park. Fire appliances will be given access to the car park in order to turn and exit whenever they use this access road. Ambulances are able to access the service and delivery area, and in the event of an emergency will be given access to the car park.

Maintenance & Deliveries

Deliveries will be made by light van to the service/delivery area and taken by trolley up to the rear door to the kitchen and laundry.

Refuse is stored in the re-purposed outbuilding and collected from the kerbside on Ayston Road. Domestic refuse will be collected from the substation enclosure, it is not intended that refuse vehicles enter the site.

Maintenance of the new block as required can be by reach and wash and cherry picker and a gently sloping path has been provided to access the plant room for future replacements.