

PRESS RELEASE

RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN TRIGGERS SCHOOL'S £0.5 MILLION INVESTMENT

Despite the recession, recruitment figures at a leading Fylde Coast independent school have been so good that they've triggered a summer investment on campus in excess of £0.5 million as the School prepares for an unprecedented influx of new pupils in September.

Rossall School, Fleetwood has been so successful with its drive for new pupils that it has spent the summer holiday period refurbishing accommodation and developing new facilities due to an oversubscription of boarders wishing to experience life on the coastal campus. The surge of interest from UK and overseas boarders goes against predictions that schools could find the going tough in the current economic climate and has given the 166-year-old school a real fillip.

The internal refurbishment programme with a value of around £0.25 million will increase the boarding capacity from 315 to 365 with the development of 50 new bedrooms and student study areas within existing buildings on campus. The work has been funded in part by the Rossall Foundation, a charitable trust set up to provide investment funding for the School, and also with £10,000 donated by the family of a former Rossall pupil.

A further £0.3 million is also being invested in the construction of new all-weather sports facilities, which will be completed in time for the new school term in early September. The all-weather external courts for hockey, tennis, rounders and five-a-side football will benefit from the latest sports surface technology and will feature the new generation of artificial

playing surfaces. The external works at Rossall have been underway for several weeks and are being carried out by Thornton Contracts on behalf of national supplier, Astrosport of Nottingham. The contractors are being supported throughout by the School's own ground staff. And, when completed, the project will provide the School with some of the finest outdoor sports facilities in the country.

In addition to the external programme two further projects are also underway to enhance the School's indoor sporting provision. Thanks to generous donations, these include the former prep school sports hall, which will provide a facility for various activities, including netball and indoor cricket nets practise, and also Rossall's historic main gymnasium, which has been refurbished to provide an arena for basketball, modern pentathlon and other activities.

Commenting on the investment, Rossall's Headmaster, Dr Stephen Winkley said: "To be honest, we were victims of our own success, because our recruitment drive has returned such excellent results. We realised prior to the end of the last school year that we simply didn't have enough accommodation for more boarders, but by refurbishing a house that was not used last year we have been able to utilise an existing facility, thereby alleviating the need for a new build programme. We now have smart new accommodation, of a very high standard, for our new intake, so the summer-long programme has been well worth the investment.

"Our new sports facilities are also something of which we can be proud, because they add an extra dimension to our sports provision, which is a plus point for many parents looking for a school with the right balance of the academic and the sporting.

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“I’m delighted that we have been able to invest in the campus at a time when many organizations are unwilling or unable to do so. It augers well for the future of the School and is a sign that the Rossall brand is growing in reputation at home and abroad.”