
CST/caw

14 March 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: Student Voice Activity Feedback

First of all, I do hope that this communication finds you and your family in good health and positive spirits as we move towards the brighter days of Spring.

As many of you will be aware, on Monday, 27 February 2023, more than 1100 students in school undertook a student voice activity. This activity asked students two important questions:

- What do you love most about The Farnley Academy?
- In an ideal world, what would you like to see improved at The Farnley Academy?

In terms of the feedback received so far, it is important for me to first draw attention to the most frequently used words that appeared in response to question one: "Friends", "Teachers", "Rewards", "Support", "Facilities". Students went out of their way to let us know how much they value the things that we do for them, and we are extremely grateful to them for providing these kind words.

Importantly, however, having reviewed the feedback provided, I am clear that there are also some key themes which students have asked us to look at for them. Surprisingly, the improvement of toilets featured quite low in the feedback provided. I will none-the-less be providing feedback on the current plans for our toilets within this letter to you today.

Some students would like more to do during break and lunchtime.

With approximately 750 students on each break and lunch, and limited outdoor space, it is not possible to allow students to play football on the hard standing area known as the 'quad' during social times. I am pleased, however, to confirm that after Easter, weather permitting, we will allow students to play football on the grass area directly below the quad.

In addition to the above, we have placed an order for eight outdoor table-tennis tables and two basketball hoops which will be able to be used at break and lunch. We expect these to be in place pretty quickly following on from the Easter holiday.

As was communicated to students last year, we continue to move forward with our exciting plans for 'The Farnley Forest Woodland Walk'. This project will see the outdoor space that students are able to use during break and lunch double to include a walk through a new wooded area of the school site with picnic benches and other outdoor seating for them to use along the route. All being well, we expect this project to be completed well before the summer break. Our students who have worked really hard on this project are confident that this development will be enjoyed by hundreds of students for years to come.

Some students would like us to review the period 7 lesson on a Monday.

Schools are legally required to provide a minimum of 32.5 hours of education to students per week. The Farnley Academy currently provides exactly 32.5 hours. It is, therefore, not possible to reduce the amount of learning time that occurs each week. It is, however, possible for us to review the structure of the school day to spread the 32.5 hours more evenly across the week, rather than running an extended school day on a Monday.

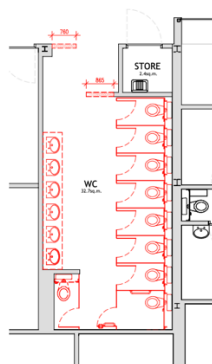
Unfortunately, it is not possible to make changes to the school day during the school year, therefore, any changes will be for September 2023. It is also important that time is taken to consult with all stakeholders, including parents and carers, on any proposed changes. As such, we will review the possible options and write to you later in the year to obtain your views on any changes that we are proposing to make.

Some students would like us to further upgrade the student toilet facilities in school.

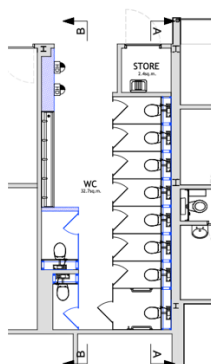
As communicated previously, plans are in place to refurbish the two downstairs Tomlinson toilet blocks. These plans will see the number of cubicles available increase by 20%. Additionally, in response to the student feedback provided, we will now seek to refurbish the Bronte toilets as well.

It is our intention to complete the Tomlinson toilet block during the Summer holidays, with the Bronte toilets following early in the new school year.

The diagrams below showcase our plans for the two Tomlinson toilet blocks.



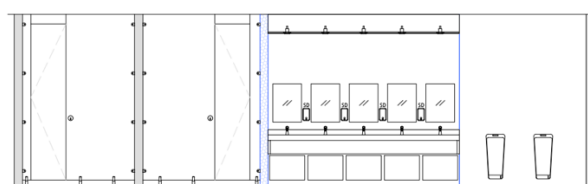
Existing Toilets 01
1:50@A1



Proposed Toilets 01
1:50@A1



Elevation A-A
1:25@A1

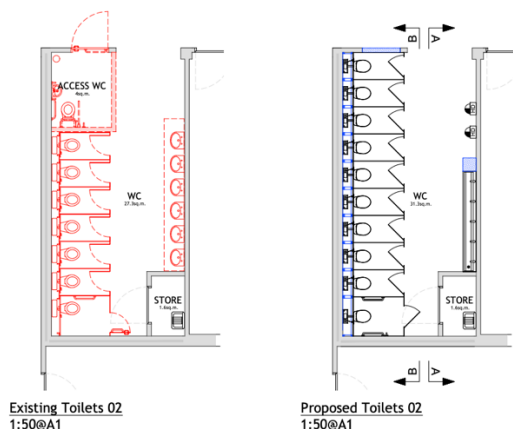


Elevation B-B
1:25@A1

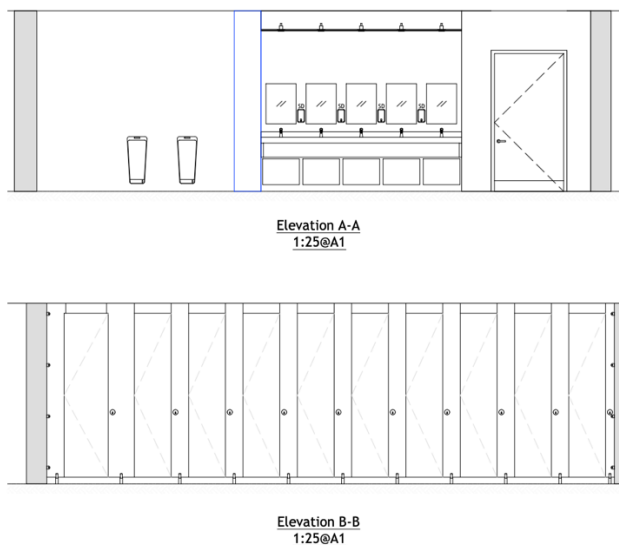


Example Wash Trough Detail

CLIENT Farnley Academy ADDRESS Chapel Lane, Leeds LS12 5EU	DRAWN SJD DATE December 2022
PROJECT Tomlinson Block GF WC Refurbishment DRAWING Toilet 01 Proposal	SCALE 1:25 500@A1 1:50@A1 DY1845-02



Example Wash Trough Detail



client Farnley Academy address Chapel Lane, Leeds LS12 5EU	drawn SJD date December 2022
project Tomlinson Block GF WC Refurbishment drawing Toilet 02 Proposal	scale 1:25 50@A1 drawing no. DY1845-03

Some students would like us to put toilet roll dispensers in each toilet cubicle rather than them being on the outside of the toilets.

Students were clear in their view that toilet roll dispensers should be installed within all cubicles and we agree with them. The original decision to remove toilet roll dispensers from cubicles was made a long time ago when we were experiencing some vandalism in our toilets. We agree with students that this would not now be the case and we intend to make the required changes with immediate effect.

Some students felt that free sanitary products should be available within the toilet areas rather than from Student Services.

During our last Student Leadership Team meeting, student leaders raised this point with me. I agreed with them and asked that baskets of free sanitary products be added to the toilet areas. Upon receipt of the above feedback, however, we have agreed to place sanitary products within all cubicles. Students should feel free to make use of these whenever required. We expect our new sanitary product dispensers to arrive in school in the coming days and will install them as soon as they do.

Some students felt that the rules on earrings should be reviewed to allow more individuality.

Again, this is a point that had been raised in the last Student Leadership Team meeting. During this meeting I agreed that I would be happy for students to put forward their proposal for what earrings they felt should / should not be permitted to be worn in school. When considering this, I asked that Student Leaders be mindful of the health and safety concerns surrounding oversized / 'dangle' earrings.

Student leaders will be feeding back to me on this point in the coming days and we will provide updated guidance to students once a position has been agreed.

Some students would like to wear leggings for PE under their shorts.

This is something that we already allow, however, it may not be as well understood as we thought. Our only stipulation in respect of leggings being worn underneath shorts is that they are plain black and unbranded.

Some students would like to wear short sleeved shirts.

This is something that we already allow. Students can wear a long, or a short-sleeved shirt. We do not, however, allow polo shirts or blouses to be worn.

Some students felt that they should not have to wear a jumper during the summer term.

Students currently do not have to wear a jumper during the final half term of the year when the weather is warmer. Reviewing the weather patterns from the last three years, we have agreed to extend this timeframe to allow jumpers not to be worn from 1 May each school year. As always, a shirt, tie and lanyard must be worn, even where a jumper is not.

We really appreciate the time that students have spent sharing their ideas with us in such a constructive and intelligent manner. We have learned a lot from the process and remain confident that our great school will continue to benefit from listening to all partners in our community.

Finally, should any students who were absent on Monday, 27 February 2023 and have not yet provided feedback wish to do so, this opportunity remains open. Where that is the case, please ask your child to collect a feedback form from student reception and provide it to their form tutor once complete.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Stokes
Principal