



Update on the School Building Project April 2014

Many old boys, parents and friends of the school are eager to know about the progress of the school hall project and related refurbishments.

You will remember that the original target for the fundraising campaign was R40M. The envisioned project mapped out the building of the new school hall, the creation of a new media centre and the building of new facilities for the music department. Those objectives were identified as much as a decade ago, and were based on the careful consideration of how to best accommodate the then growing school population.

At this stage of the fundraising effort we have managed to collect R26M. This is a record for a state school and while efforts to collect more continue, the Governing Body has worked to finalise an alternate plan, which still achieves all the objectives set out at the start.

What this means is that the building of the new hall below Rissik House has been abandoned. Instead, starting this year, there will be a two phase conversion of the existing hall, and then the creation of a new library and music department. Careful consideration has been given to every detail and the Governing Body is confident that this best meets the objectives, while at the same time being a more affordable choice. The objective of establishing a comprehensive bursary fund remains an important feature of the revised plan.

In the next month the fundraising website will be updated with the new plans and the rationale for the changes communicated in detail.

The Headmaster, Mr Tony Reeler has said of the new project: "The school is delighted that this project is finally under way, thanks to the generosity of so many Old Boys and supporters. The investment made in Boys High is indeed an investment in our country, as so many of our young men will go on to positions of influence in so many spheres of life. These are exciting times indeed!"

Mr Bill Schroder, who has lead the fundraising campaign, adds: "The support of the campaign, and through it the interest in and loyalty to the school, has been wonderful over the past three years and it has been a privilege to interact with so many generous Old Boys and Friends of the School. I do believe that there are still many potential donors who have to be contacted, reminded and nudged. We need them if we are to reach the target. The revised project will create a great opportunity to give a renewed impetus to the campaign. It would be difficult if not impossible to mount another campaign of this magnitude, so we must succeed with this one."

Thank you again for contributions received to date and we look forward to being in contact in the weeks and months to come.

The Pretorian Trust