

Frequently Asked Questions

Will tuition fees rise to pay for this investment?

The next stage of the Master Planning process will not require increases in tuition fees beyond our current budgeting process.

In addition to careful budgeting to fully fund our ever-increasing teaching and learning programmes, we plan for a surplus which is held in reserve to fund major projects.

We believe such an investment is in the best interests of students, their families and staff as we continue to offer first-class education and educational facilities to girls. The investment will be funded through our current, conservative capital management policy.

Wouldn't the funds be better directed toward teaching programmes and services for current students?

PLC invests heavily in our teaching staff and our curriculum. It is their expertise and strengths that is a drawcard for so many families.

Some of the programmes that have been implemented to support staff growth and development over the past two years include:

- Expert curriculum and pedagogy professional development opportunities;
- Educator Impact (both for staff and middle managers) – designed to allow students to provide feedback on teaching;
- National Excellence in School Leadership Initiative (NESLI) – designed to develop the leadership skills of middle leaders at PLC;
- Internally and externally developed Professional Levels 1,2 and 3 – designed to recognise and support excellent teachers who wish to remain in the classroom rather than move into leadership roles;
- Executive Coaching opportunities to support staff extend their skillset;
- Seven Habits of Highly Effective People (for operational, administration and teaching staff) and triad teacher support programme – enabling teachers to observe and support each other's development.

The School has also put considerable effort into new programmes and activities for students.

Our focus on science and innovation has seen the introduction next year of Year 11 WACE Marine and Maritime Studies (ATAR), an increase in the staffing allocation for

Gifted and Talented programme and the hosting this term of the Junior Big Day In STEM fest, which was a great success.

Students have also provided extremely positive feedback around the leadership and peer support programmes which have been offered to them this year.

Why don't we build a new Boarding House now? Isn't this just a short-term fix?

The construction of the new boarding house will be a significant undertaking financially for the School, as such we need to allow time to build our capital reserves for this project.

Our boarding house and associated programmes have long been positively viewed by all parts of our school community, which is why we are experiencing such a strong demand today. We are keen to respond to this demand as soon as we can by offering new places and expanding boarding into Finlayson House.

The design and construction of a new Boarding House is a critical part of the Master Planning process. Moving the Boarding House will allow room for a new Performing Arts Centre as well as providing new boarding facilities. This will be a complex project, which needs to be undertaken in a measured way, requiring extensive consultation with stakeholders.

Why are we expanding the numbers of boarding students?

With the change a number of years ago to incorporate Year 7 into Senior School there is a demand for boarding places in this cohort which historically was not factored in to the configuration of the Boarding House.

We believe the optimum number of students in a Boarding House is around 25 per year group, allowing flexibility for siblings and relatives.

Converting 'Finney House', as it was affectionally known by past PLC students who boarded there, into a facility for Year 7 boarders will provide these girls with a nurturing start to their PLC journey.

What has happened to plans for a Science and Innovation Centre?

These plans are still underway. The physical refurbishment of the Library continues to be actively planned for and is likely to be completed in 2020; activities and programmes around STEM are still being actively pursued and implemented.

What will the temporary Music Village look like?

The Music Village will include 13 peripatetic teaching spaces, two rehearsal studios, and staff facilities.

10 View Street, previously occupied by the Property Department, will be refurbished to accommodate the Pipe Band from 2019.

What disruptions will there be to Junior School students while construction work is underway?

It is anticipated there will be little disruption to the students while this work is underway. The areas of construction will be fenced off. The playground near the boarding house will still be operational for Junior School students during the build.

The School has just spent \$10 million on the PLC Lighthouse. Why does it need to spend more on capital works so soon after the Lighthouse has opened?

A new Music Centre has been a high priority for the School Council for the past 12 years, reflecting the state of our current facilities and feedback from parents. However, building projects on campus need to be staggered to ensure that school life can continue and we have not been able to contemplate building a new Music Centre until the Senior School and the PLC Lighthouse were completed. Both these projects were required in a shorter time frame than the Music Centre.

Almost 60 per cent of students across the Junior and Senior Schools undertake music lessons and while Finlayson House has served us faithfully, we are delighted we can now build a contemporary Music Centre.

Concurrently, and despite extremely strong demand, PLC is unable to offer any further boarding places to girls beyond 2018 because our Boarding House is full.

Under the Master Plan, a new Boarding House is planned to be built on the corner of Forrest and View Streets, however it is at least eight years away.

This plan will provide a modern, new Music Centre for the girls and at the same time allow us to give certainty to the many country and international families eager to confirm boarding places for their daughters from 2019.