

The New Madras

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing, as the out-going chair of the Madras College Parent Council, to invite you to our AGM on Wednesday 16 September at 7:00pm at Kilrymont. A copy of the agenda is attached.

The main topic for discussion will be the two options for the new Madras College and I have summarised these options below. Details of how the Local Development Group (consisting of Fife Council officials, local councillors and parent representatives) have arrived at these two options can be found on the Parent Council website at www.madrasboard.org.uk/

The two options are as follows: a new build school at a site in St Andrews West, or the renewal and extension of Kilrymont. Neither option is without its problems. The new build at a site in St Andrews West will entail Fife Council having to work with the University and its development partners. However, this option should provide a school with immediate access to comprehensive sports facilities and will enable the school to work closely with the University facilities at the North Haugh and Station Park.

The renewal and extension of Kilrymont will mean that pupils at the site will be decamped to portacabins for up to 3 years and will be necessarily co-located with a building site where asbestos removal is being carried out. When the school is built it will be one of the smallest secondary school sites in Fife. The most recent secondary schools rebuilt in Fife were Queen Anne HS in Dunfermline on a site of 156,000sq m and Beath HS on a site of 133,000sq m. The new Madras at Kilrymont will be on a 62,000sq m site; less than half the size of either of the other school sites and will entail the continued use of Station Park. During the re-build and after it is completed, pupils will need to be bussed daily to the school's playing fields at Station Park. The advantage of this option for Fife Council is that they own the site and they will not have to negotiate with the University and their development partners.

At the end of the AGM we will take a vote on which option those parents present at the meeting favour and we will communicate our decision to Fife Council. The final decision will be taken by Fife Council's Education committee on 12th November, and although we will not determine the outcome, sufficient representation of views should be made. There is still time to make your view known to Fife Council, so please either come to the AGM or write to Fife Council to let them know which option you prefer, as it will be harder to contest an unwelcome decision if there is apparent apathy at this stage.

Henry Paul

Chair Madras College Parents' Council

Contact details for:

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