



# Decant Briefing

Penicuik High School  
27 March 2025

# Programme



- ▶ **Introductions**
- ▶ **School Approach to Decant Matters**
- ▶ **Contractors Approach to Decant**
- ▶ **Q and A**

# Introductions



Various staff are here this evening to present and I am going to ask them to stand and briefly introduce themselves and indicate their roles in the project.

- ▶ Midlothian Staff
- ▶ Morrison Construction Staff



# Areas Covered



## ▶ **School Decant**

- ▶ 1960s block
- ▶ Curriculum
- ▶ Home Economics
- ▶ Lunch provision
- ▶ Exams
- ▶ Accommodation for young people with Additional Support Needs
- ▶ Events
- ▶ Social spaces
- ▶ Other



# 1960's Space

- ▶ The school had a school roll at one time **of around 1200 pupils** and students were educated within the 1930s and 1960s blocks. **Staffing roll for next session is 660.**
- ▶ As the school roll dropped over time the use of additional spaces within various part of the school became flexible but historically not all space was well utilised.
- ▶ The decant plan involves **enabling works** to create flexible spaces; including classrooms, offices and meeting spaces. Staff, including specialist staff and school leaders have been involved in focused discussion on what rooms are required and where they should be placed.
- ▶ **The focus has been on ensuring we maintain delivery of services** to support students and staff and **offer the same curriculum and quality of learning and teaching.**



# Curriculum



- ▶ **The school's time tabler has worked closely with a Timetable consultant to ensure we can fit our curriculum to the enabled classroom spaces.** This has been completed successfully.
- ▶ **The school has not reduced the Timetable** and has made the normal decisions about staffing and student numbers to allocate the teaching resource. This is a process all schools go through at this time of year and this year is no different for us.
- ▶ **We have a commitment to developing our curriculum and also enhancing our offer through the Midlothian Aligned Curriculum Offer (MACO)** and working with our neighbour school.



# Curriculum



## Courses added over last two sessions include:

- ▶ N5 Lab Science
- ▶ N5 Health Sector
- ▶ N5 Travel and Tourism (skills for work)
- ▶ N5 Modern Studies
- ▶ N5 Wellbeing Award through core PE
- ▶ L5 Dance Leadership through core PE
- ▶ L5 Religious, Belief and Values through core RMPS
- ▶ L6 NPA Journalism with L6 Communication (this achieves L6 literacy for those who cannot complete H English)
- ▶ H Admin & IT
- ▶ H Philosophy
- ▶ L6 Religious, Belief and Values through core RMPS

# Home Economics



- ▶ This subject is not able to be decanted into the 60s block
- ▶ **Work is ongoing to ensure that S1-3 Health and Wellbeing entitlements are met** through the curriculum during the decant.
- ▶ **The new S3 Course will be designed around a Food, Health and Wellbeing course.** This can **still lead to doing Nat 5 Practical Cookery in S4.** Some cooking opportunities will be looked at via Beeslack's kitchens at various points or other venues.
- ▶ **S1-2 will do a broad course with textiles technology as a practical skills focus,** alongside aspects of food tech and nutrition. We will also look for additional curriculum inserts that could support practical skills as well as a STEM approach
- ▶ **Nat 5 Practical Cookery classes will run with use of Kitchen facilities at Beeslack High School** in the afternoons





# Lunch Provision



- ▶ **Lunch provision will need to change as the current Bite Site is within the rebuild envelope in the 30s block site.**
- ▶ Modifications will be made within what is known as the Green Seat area and **food will be delivered to school and distributed from a dedicated Servery area.**
- ▶ This will allow for some hot items such as soup to be served.
- ▶ Food delivered must meet nutritional and healthy food standards.
- ▶ **An ordering system will be confirmed** before the close of session.
- ▶ Traditionally most students leave the grounds at lunch and break times to buy food.
- ▶ **Students will have access to the green seat area as a social space at lunchtime** and we will have supervised classroom spaces on floor 1 for students returning to the building.
- ▶ **We will have quiet and supervised spaces for vulnerable students** on an upper floor at break times.



# Exams



- ▶ **We will be planning for the exam diet from early next session.** During exams almost all students have study leave meaning we have more flexibility with spaces.
- ▶ **Large Exams will be sat in the Gym Hall** within the school PE area.
- ▶ **For smaller exams we will use classroom spaces** on site as is existing practice- avoiding noisy and high traffic areas.
- ▶ **Students with assessment arrangements (AA) for exams** will be accommodated in the wide range of meeting rooms and office.
- ▶ Enabling works in the 60's block will not be carried out during this years exam diet.



# Accommodation for Students with Additional Support Needs (ASN)



- ▶ We are very mindful of the need to ensure young people have access to appropriate spaces to support them as learners.
- ▶ **SLT and senior staff have identified areas in the 60's block that can be matched to current provision** and this means we will have safe spaces to support nurture work, aspects of support for learning and support of young people who are dysregulated and/or neuro-diverse
- ▶ **We will have a sensory room** to support young people who need to regulate.
- ▶ We are **continuing to look at changes to our Guidance and House structures to both support the decant process and future proof support** services once we move back into the new facilities.
- ▶ Students within the Complex Needs provision (Pentland Rooms) will need to be temporarily decanted to Strathesk Primary school and we will seek to meet individually with those parent/carers around support needs and transition.
- ▶ **Transition will be considered and planned for vulnerable and ASN students** already in the school. We have also planned transition support for new P7 students coming in who will have no experience of the 1960's building.

# Events



- ▶ We will have access to the large games hall within the PE area and the green seat area on the ground floor of the 1960's block.
- ▶ **The green seat area will be reconfigured to provide more flexible seating and space and will be a main social and meeting space** with the Gym a back up depending on timetabled use.
- ▶ **We are scoping all available Penicuik venues** and looking at size, flexibility of use, facilities available and costs of hire. We will match traditional activities and events to the most suitable venues within that scoping exercise.
- ▶ **We will be able to use Beeslack's meeting and events facilities** and we will work to align calendars to enable this where appropriate
- ▶ There are also **Primary school facilities** we could hire as a let that are nearby.
- ▶ It will be a priority try and to **keep events within the Penicuik area** to avoid any inconvenience and extra travel.





# Other



## WC Provision

- ▶ The 1960's block **will meet statutory requirements for WC ratios**. A new accessible WC is being created in the 1960's building to comply with statutory requirements.

## One way System

- ▶ **A one way system will be put in place to ease congestion** and improve behaviour monitoring and staff support.

## Fire Evacuation Plan

- ▶ **A new evacuation plan will be put in place and students fully informed of their responsibilities**. This and the Schools current Fire Action plan will be discussed with Midlothian Fire Safety Officer.

# Social Spaces



- ▶ The green seat areas will be the central hub and social space as we no longer have the Bite Site
- ▶ Supervised Classroom areas on Floor 1 will also be made available to support groups of individuals when they return to school from Lunch break or during bad weather.
- ▶ Planned larger events will be held at the most appropriate venues. We will need to focus on flexible solutions for the next two sessions.

