

December 2021

DEAR PARENTS & STAFF

We write to you at the end of what has been an extremely eventful year for PACT. As most of you will know PACT's vision is to provide a Catholic education for both boys and girls aged 3—18. This year has seen us strengthen that commitment and allow for future growth. Last March we communicated to all staff and parents our plans to relocate our schools.

The project we were undertaking was both risky and enormous—some time prior to this the Board had taken a decision to change the Chair position from non-exec to exec. In practical terms, this means the Chair role is now involved in operational matters on a day to day basis thus allowing us to further strengthen the PACT team and move forward at an even faster pace. As a result of this change we felt the challenge ahead could be met.

As we now approach the end of this calendar year we can look back and see how much has been achieved in a short period of time. We have had little time to share with you in this hectic time the details of our progress. We wish to do so now.

So many people have contributed to its success, and we would like to thank them now. They include our volunteers, our Donors, all those who supported us with their prayers and our staff, especially our hard-working maintenance team. We must also thank our main contractor, Gordom, our Architects, PSAO, and Interior Designers, Millington Interiors. During the final month of work, it was all hands on deck, family members and friends offered their time to help set up furniture, unpack boxes and clean the rooms so we could be ready for our opening in September. It was a wonderful collective effort and we are so very thankful. It may surprise you to know these family members and friends included many of our contractors who volunteered outside of their working hours and were a part of the cleaning up efforts.

We look forward to being able to host a PACT wide

event at SE19 later this academic year, COVID permitting of course.

Settling three schools into new locations has been no mean feat but our Heads have risen to the challenge admirably. We are immensely grateful for all your loyalty as you took a leap of faith to begin this new adventure in south-east London. We are pleased to let you know that our schools have seen a growth in pupil numbers this year and this looks set to continue into next academic year too. We do not forget the difficult decision to close Oliver House School permanently this summer. Thankfully, many families, and staff, were able to move across to Oakwood Prep School and continue their journey with PACT. It is wonderful to hear how well these students are settling into Oakwood.

We would like to acknowledge our staff who continue to show great resilience and ability to adapt. Change of this magnitude requires real hard work and team spirit and we are grateful to our wonderful staff who have taken this all on board during an already difficult period dealing with COVID and the challenges it has brought. We are of course grateful to all of you for your unfailing support.

Sending prayers and hearty Christmas greetings to you all.



David Guillon
Executive Chair



Bernadette Millington
CEO

SEI9: Before we could begin

Many of you will be aware of the publicity surrounding the site that is now home to The Cedars and The Laurels Schools. You will then understand why, before commencing any works, the first vital step was to undertake structural and other Health & Safety surveys.

The result of the structural survey was the first of many major challenges; we were informed that in order to make the building structurally sound, we would have to commit a much greater works programme than originally anticipated. To be expected was the discovery of asbestos which, any of you in the construction industry will know, must be eliminated before any works can be given the go ahead..



Asbestos removal is undertaken by specialist teams and reported to Health & Safety Executive in advance of the initiation of works.



SE19: Demolition Stage

The reality of this project was that everything needed to be stripped back to a shell so we could start again with re-building a safe and beautiful school environment.



SEI9: The Legalities

On 28th April 2021, we discarded our hard hats and steel toes capped shoes in order to return to the office and sign the legal papers. Our Landlords are the Congregation of Our Lady of Fidelity and below you see Sister Bernadette, Mother Superior of the Congregation and Liam who represent their Board of Trustees together with David Guillon and Bernadette Millington: a momentous occasion!



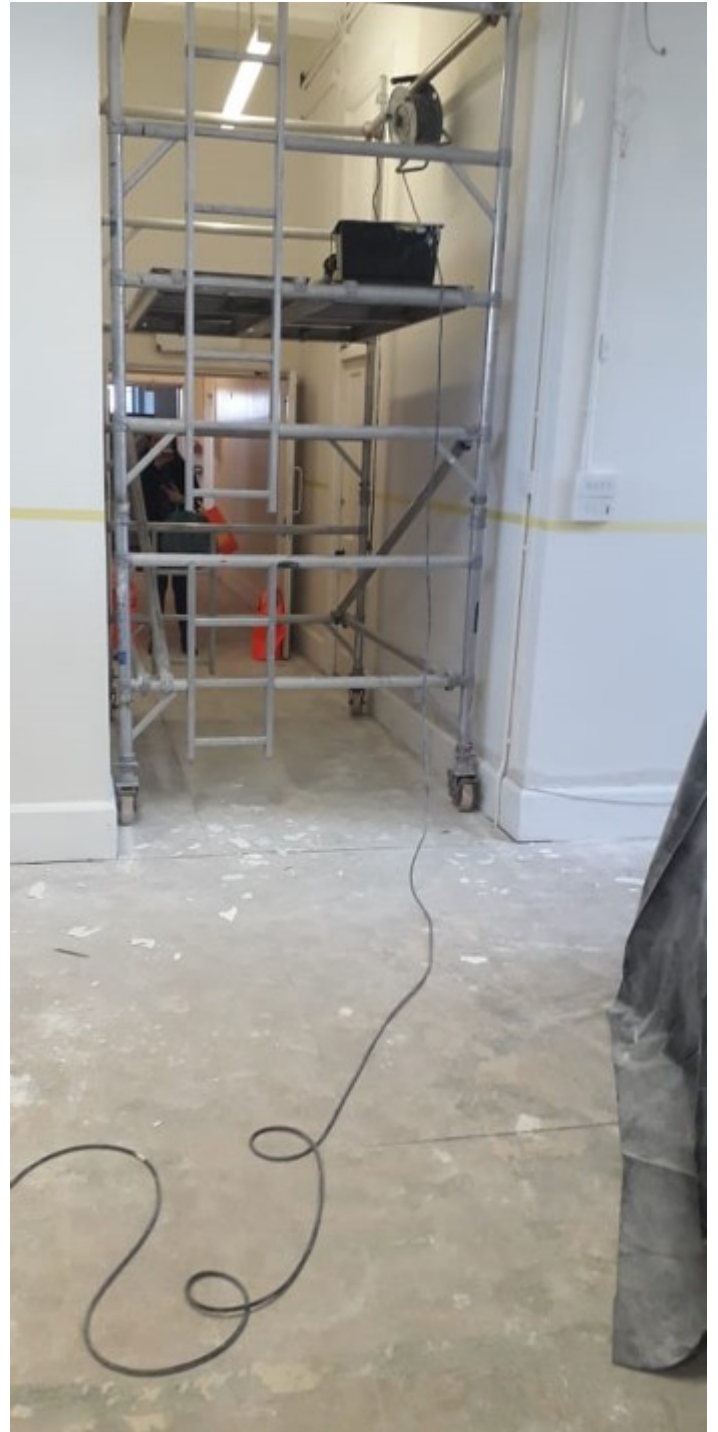
SE19: Structural Works

Early on in the project we decided to take the risk and purchase steels prior to the final agreement being in place. Looking back, we know God was guiding us during this time; over the coming months steel prices were to rapidly increase, and shortages become widespread.



SEI 19: Fire Safety

Splitting one site into 2 distinct schools meant we needed to engage a fire strategist and work out how we could ensure we were achieving not only a workable school layout, but one that was also safe in the event of fire — this meant new evacuation routes needed to be developed and so new corridors and openings were created.



SEI9: Re-building

Having stripped the building back to a shell it now needed to be re-built. This involved new sub flooring, partitions, insulation, ceilings, plumbing, electrics and many other things before we could begin the finishes.



SEI9: Fit-out & Finishes

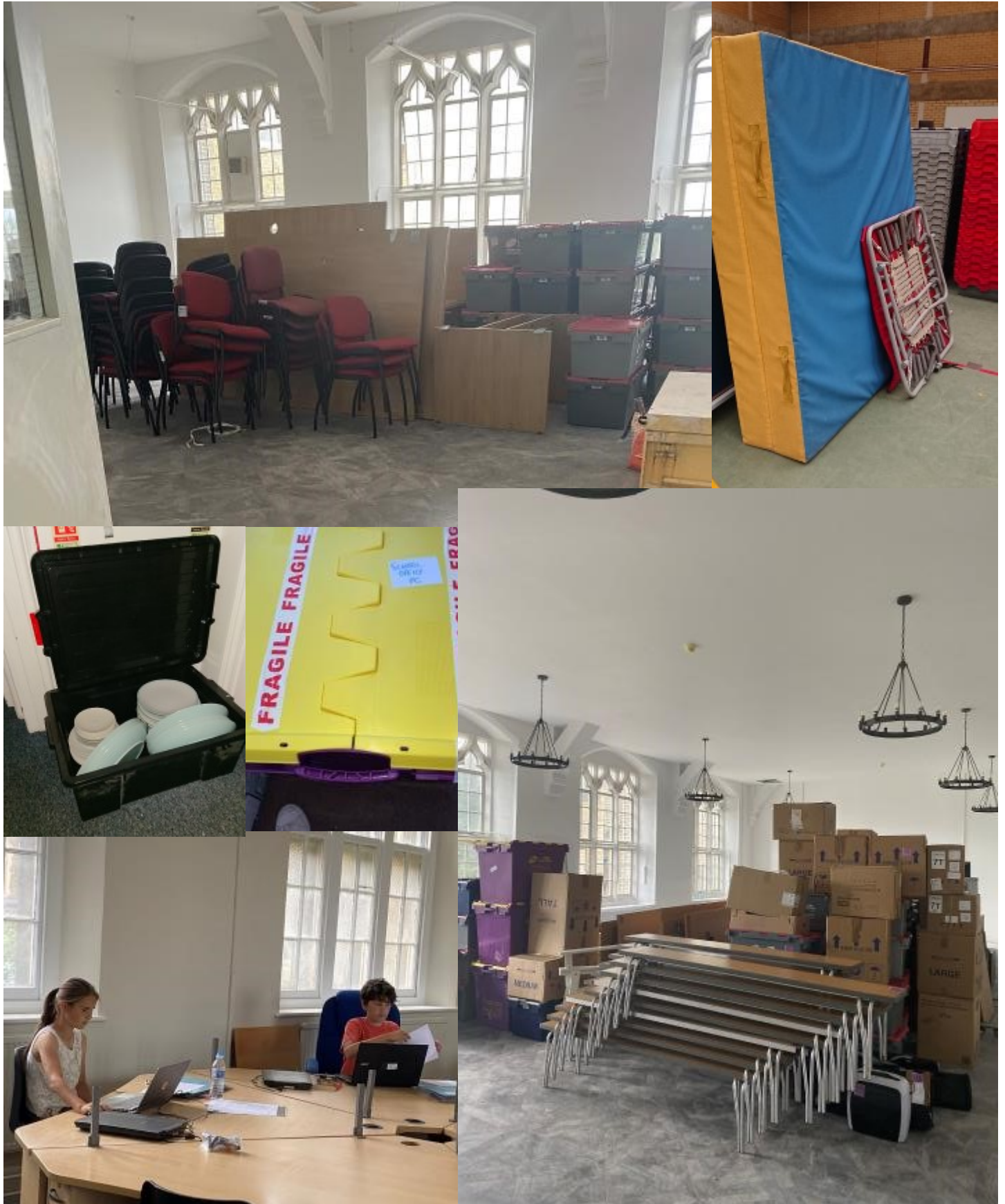
Finally, with not much time to go we had reached the stage for finishes, fit-out and endless decisions. At this stage we were really starting to experience the shortages in both labour and supplies that have hit the UK and other European countries. We were extremely fortunate to be working with such a committed team.



SE19: Move Weeks

Moving all of our schools in one summer was no small feat and a special thanks goes to Gosia Dziobon, our Health & Safety Officer, who arranged and oversaw the movement of every single desk, chair, cupboard, crate etc. For anyone who has organised a house move, I have no doubt you can imagine the enormity of this task. We even had to recruit some young volunteers to help us keep a track of inventories.

In fact there are so many people to thank—for many days teams of volunteers turned up to organise, build furniture and clean, without these people we would not have made it to the finishing line on time!



Welcome to SEI9: The Laurels



Here you can see some before and after pictures of The Laurels School Entrance with our Headmistress, Mrs Linda Sanders.

Before: Far Left, middle pictures.

After: Left, bottom pictures



The Laurels



The heart of all of our schools are our Oratories.

With this in mind both of our Secondary Schools, who are co-located at our campus in SE19, have been designed so students can easily greet Our Lord each morning. You will find the Oratories close to the School Receptions - of course each school has a separate Oratory and the one you see here belongs to The Laurels School.

We are lucky enough to have daily mass celebrated during the week.

Before: Left

After: Below



Welcome to The Cedars



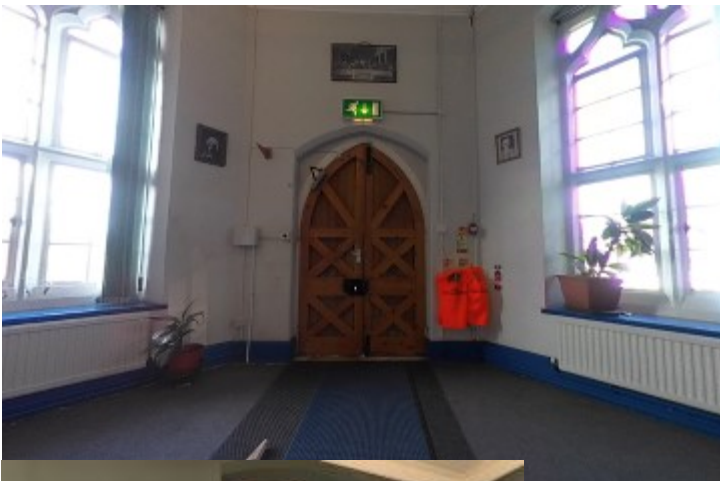
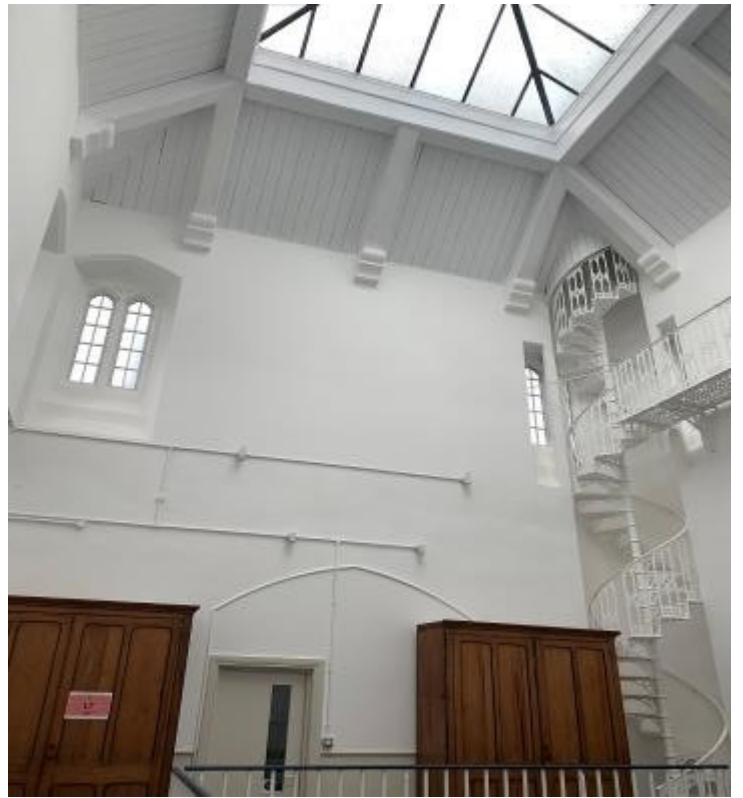
Above you see the corridor before and after whilst below, and to the side, shows the before and after of the School Hall which was released to the school just last week. We will continue to release further rooms to the school over the coming term.

Before: Top left, left

After: Top right, bottom right



The Cedars



Above and to the left we see the main stairwell under construction and to the top right the finished product.

To the left is The Cedars Entrance as it was, below we see the entrance after works are completed.



Welcome to Oakwood @ Lloyd Park

Unlike our Senior Schools, Oakwood has moved to a site that was already within the PACT family. The works required were not as extensive but it did of course need to be transformed from a Boys Secondary School to a Prep School suitable for 3-11 year olds.



The most significant work required was to create a new Early Years Centre. We mustn't forget that little children need little toilets too!



Oakwood @ Lloyd Park

We needed a proper Early Years outdoor area and what suited older boys did not suit our younger students. So began the outdoor area make-over. The completion of outdoor shelter was delayed due to COVID restrictions and the majority of people will be seeing this for the first time.



Oakwood @ Lloyd Park

For old Cedars parents maybe you can spot the rooms below, for those of you who have not visited Oakwood, the photos feature our Headmaster, Mr. Ciro Candia.





WE PRAY THAT THE LORD MAY
GRANT YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES
TRUE JOY AND LASTING PEACE.

Merry Christmas!