



Senior Campus Rebuild

The Ministry of Education have confirmed the exact nature of the redevelopment proposed for the Senior Campus of Warkworth School. Plans have now been finalised for an almost complete rebuild of the school.

The ten existing classrooms and administration area will be demolished to make way for a new two-storey building that accommodates fourteen teaching spaces, three music tuition rooms, a library and pool changing facilities to replace those lost in a fire in 2015. A new administration building will also be constructed. The senior hall will remain, along with the current staffroom and resource room which will be redeveloped as a stand-alone building. This refurbished building will be used as a performing arts centre. A portion of it will be allocated to the Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) Service, which operates separately from the school as part of the Ministry of Education's Special Education service for learners with additional learning needs.

While the announcement was made in March that \$13 million had been allocated to the redevelopment of the school, it was uncertain at that time which of the buildings would be demolished and which would be retained. A lengthy period of negotiation culminated in the decision to demolish most of the buildings to clear the site. Key factors that led to this decision included the need to provide at least eight additional teaching spaces for the growing population in Warkworth (four now and at least four at a later date), the need to provide as much hardcourt space as possible for recreational play, and the high cost of remodelling and extending the existing buildings given the extent of asbestos contained within them.

School staff had mixed feelings at the prospect of the old school being demolished. It has been an icon of education in Warkworth since 1945. Now that demolition is a reality, ideas and concepts for preserving something of the old buildings and incorporating it into the new buildings as a feature are being considered. The school is keen to see something of the school's heritage preserved and valued.

Savory Construction will begin preparing the relocatable classrooms on the Junior Campus during the Christmas holiday period ready for the senior students to use from the beginning of the 2018 school year. The demolition works on the Senior Campus will begin in April with construction of the buildings scheduled to start in July.

The school is preparing for the transition of students to the Junior Campus in a staged manner to make the process as smooth as possible. Provision has been made in the organisation of the school for the Year 4 students to start the year on the Junior Campus in one of the innovative learning spaces. Year 5 and 6 students will move into the refurbished classrooms at the end of Term 1.

The school is committed to continuing to ensure all students achieve success in their learning across a broad and varied curriculum. They have planned to make the best use of the teaching and learning spaces they have available to them and are confident that they will deliver high quality programmes during the period of construction.