



HARRODIAN

Wednesday 28th October 2020

Harrodian School – Sports Hall

Dear Max,

In response to your recent question as to why the Harrodian requires a Sports Hall, our application should not be a surprise to anyone viewing it. Sports Halls bring tangible and immediate benefits to a school and are welcomed by the Department of Education as an integral part of any educational enhancement programme. If we examine other schools of our size across West and South West London, who all have this facility, it is more of a surprise that we don't have a Hall.

From when the school was founded in 1993, the site has seen several building projects that have raised our educational offering to those locally and further afield. All the building development across the site has been to enhance the educational opportunities available and allow our pupils to fulfil their potential not only academically but physically, socially and culturally. Our most recent additions to the estate, such as the Sixth Form Suite, and now the Sports Hall, are not so we can increase pupil numbers but are so we can increase the diversity of subjects we offer, raise academic standards and pupil well-being. An all-weather Sports Hall would allow us to promote sports across all the year groups, encouraging inclusivity and opportunities for new sports such as badminton, basketball and gymnastics, which we currently cannot offer. By encouraging our pupils, we will continue to promote healthier lifestyles, confidence and overall physical and mental resilience on a much greater scale. The facility will include a performance enhancement centre, where through building individual and strength and conditioning sessions, we will reduce sports injuries and assist with any rehabilitation.

The School prides itself on the number of comprehensive sports fixtures it arranges with a wide variety of local schools. The Sports Hall would allow these to continue in poor weather, where we have otherwise had to cancel or amend our schedules. We would also have better changing facilities, improving the experience not only for our own pupils but for other children, teams and groups, making it a more welcoming visit for all. The Sports Hall would become a leading venue for our present tournaments and fixtures.

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A Sports Hall would allow all our pupils to express their individuality and celebrate personal and team achievement. The Sports Hall will further allow the school to have an indoor space where all of the community can gather under one roof for various key school events, such as assemblies, socials and charity functions involving pupils, staff and families. The Sports Hall will also provide a home for our existing programme for Drama and Music productions. These will be enhanced by the additional space and offer enjoyment to the audience, cast and crew. Through opening up the Sports Hall to local use, we hope to encourage other opportunities for Sport, Music and Drama in our community, especially for those that do not have access to a similar facility.

Harrodian is part of the Eco School's programme and it is important to us that the design is architecturally sympathetic to the current site and will be one of the most environmentally sensitive Sports Halls of its kind. This has led to careful consideration of building materials, 'green' walls, lighting and the elevation of the building, combined with energy saving measures and improved sound insulation. Further, the impact on local wildlife has also been considered throughout the application. One tangible benefit of this investment will be reduced noise levels for our neighbours, as existing events are relocated from older, noisier spaces to a new, quieter Hall.

Since the founding of the Harrods Sports Club in 1904, the site has a long standing tradition of providing facilities and grounds 'for the mental and physical betterment' of its users. Our application for a Sports Hall continues that tradition in a more modern setting. It will be for the benefit of both the school and local community and will allow us to offer better facilities, improve our educational standing and give more opportunities for engagement and learning to anyone who uses it.

Yours sincerely,



Captain R Stewart
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