



Sports Hall FAQs

The following are the Frequently Asked Questions that we have received. This is a live document that we plan to continue updating so that all parties can see the responses.

Design Questions

1. Why have you chosen a modern design?

The school's preference would be for a high quality, bespoke design utilising glass however the school is bound by the terms of the Academies Finance Handbook and DfE Condition Improvement Fund Terms. These procedures require schools to ensure value for money for the tax payer is central to any development. The added costs associated with a bespoke design would make the project unaffordable and would not be funded by the DfE.

Yes. These tensile structure sports hall are used across the country and the county for Sports Hall construction in schools. They are approved by the DfE and also by Sport England as a sustainable value for money build.

The central requirement of the build is to balance design consideration, against value for money against usable curriculum space for our students and maximum chances of getting funding from the DfE for the project. We believe our choice of design meets these requirements.

2. Did you consider a traditional brick and block slate roof design?

Yes we did consider a traditional brick and block, slate roofed Sport's Hall but the higher material costs and longer build programme increased the overall costs and once again impacted negatively on value for money requirements for the tax payer.

Costs and value for money aside from a design perspective we are not convinced that a 12-14 metre high brick wall running up the hedge line would be a more attractive proposition than the modern design we have identified.

3. How high will the building be?

The building is in two sections – the changing rooms and the domed Sports Hall.

The changing rooms are located at the back of the building on the Horncastle road boundary and are approximately 6m high in a traditional block build and clad with cedar. It is this that will be viewable from the road and over the hedge. The changing rooms are approximately 10 metres wide.

The domed Sports Hall structure is approximately 10.5 metres at the peak of the dome section. For reference the trees are approximately 20metres high and the weather vane on the existing pavilion stands at approximately 10 meters at the top.



4. How far will the building be from the hedging?

The building will be sited at least 12metres from the hedge line – we are content to be directed to move this but are restricted by the athletics track and sports pitch in front of it.

5. How far will the dome be from the hedge?

The dome will be located in front of the changing rooms and will therefore be at least 20 meters from the hedge line.

6. Will the building be dug into the landscape and if so how far?

To level the site effectively there will be an element of dropping the level of the field in order to create a level site: the incline on the Horncastle Road demonstrates the scale of the problem but the field also slopes down to the Crowtree Lane road as well. We anticipate this digging down will ensure that the top of the dome will not be above the height of the existing pavilion.

There are no specific plans to dig down beyond that required to create a level site; for example, there are no plans to dig down by two or three metres for example or to dig further than this and drop the build below ground level.

7. What colour will the cover on the dome be?

The cover will be light grey rather than white.

8. What lighting arrangements will be in place for the Sports Hall?

The lighting plans for the new Sports Hall are minimal and as follows:

- i) No plans for windows or lights on the back [Horncastle Road] of the Sports Hall to ensure that there is no light spill.
- ii) There are no plans for floodlit pitches on the main field.
- iii) Any pedestrian lighting will be at a low level and be discrete soft LED lighting focused downwards to light the pathway.
- iv) There are no plans for higher level street lighting.
- v) The dome is made of a PVC tensile structure and the fabric has a 10% light transmission into or out of the building. External light transmission is controlled via internal downward facing LED lighting thus down lighting the interior and reducing any outward light spill.

Community/Emergency Access

9. Does the school currently let out the existing activity hall?

Yes the current activity hall and Newton Hall [the new build] is let out for community use on a regular basis: we have different community groups who use the space and demand from other community groups for use of the space following the closure of the two sports halls at Louth Academy.



In addition to the above we have around 40+ school evening/night/weekend events that utilise the Newton block or our activity hall that run throughout the course of our 38 week academic year.

10. Where will access and parking be for community use?

We currently use the main car parks located off Crowtree Lane for all school events and community lettings: we have no plans to change this.

There are no plans to build any car parks or create vehicle or pedestrian access from the Horncastle Road, and our plans assume the continued use of the main car parks and access via Crowtree Lane and the existing footpath entrances located at the bottom and midway up the footpath.

11. How will emergency vehicles access the site?

The schools existing fire plans and emergency vehicle access route is via the Crowtree lane entrance and there are no plans to alter this or to put in a separate emergency access route off the Horncastle Road.

The existing field does already have a pathway running alongside the edges of the main buildings and there is a hard-core base remaining from when the Pavilion was original built. We plan to extend the path and re-commission this hard-core base to enable emergency vehicles to drive up the side of the field to access the Sports Hall.

12. Will there be any other new access routes?

No the school has no plans to put any other access routes pedestrian or vehicle onto the site as this would create additional security problems for us to manage.

Location

13. What other locations were considered?

The school has considered several other locations as detailed in the table below and shown in the presentation on the website.

Crowtree House [old nursing home on Crowtree Lane]

This site is currently planned for conversion to Sixth Form boarding provision.

The site is also too small and too far from the main site and would increase pupil travel time inefficiencies



Conversion of existing activity hall.

Existing footprint is too small and activity hall is ring-fenced for conversion into Physics & Engineering block and a whole school assembly/exams hall.

Top Field/Back of Foundation House

Access is one of the key issues from the Horncastle Road if we built on the top tennis courts and has similar issues at the back of Foundation House which has no road way or access route onto the field without the compulsory purchase and demolition of one of the private residences next to the school to create a roadway to the facility.

Main Field

Various permutations have been considered for the main field but with the exception of the top of the field all of them impact on Sport England's requirement and our curriculum needs to maintain a full size pitch on the main field.

14. Couldn't the school have built the Sports Hall on the old playing fields?

As part of the schools longer term plan to consolidate its investments onto the main site the school took the decision to sell the old Boarding House and the old Julian Bower playing fields as part of its Phase 1 Strategic Site plan to release capital funds to provide investment into our Phase 2 Strategic Site Plan and invest in new sporting facilities [the Sports Hall] and new science and engineering facilities.

Both the Boarding House and Julian Bower playing fields had been dormant for well over a decade [two in Julian Bower's case] and did not form part of the school's normal curriculum usage.



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Option	Location	Key Issues
A	Build on Tennis Courts	Sports England objection to the removal of sports facilities & part of top field for car parking. Planning/Highways objections on grounds of access for emergency vehicles and road widening required from Horncastle Road - impact of additional traffic to this area and impact on residents.
B	Build on top playing field behind Foundation House	As above plus significant issues around access routes up the side of Foundation House from Crowtree Lane would require purchase and demolition of one of the bungalows and/or closure of the Footpath and would have an impact on residents and footpath users.
C	Build on existing space/convert	Footprint too small.
D	Build on bottom of playing field	Sport England objections to the removal of a significant percentage of a useable playing space/football pitch over the disused land at the top of the field.
E	Build downside of footpath	Additional costs to bring this disused land back into use - levelling of the ground and associated drainage costs. Impact of Option D&F on the setting creating overcrowding and light issues for Library, Mathematics and Science blocks.
F	Build on playing field by Library	Option E impacts directly on the Conservation Area requirement for the protection of views of open green spaces and views of St James' Church from the footpath.



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G	Build next to Pavilion	Impact on setting for residents opposite the school during the winter months when trees are bare. Sport England approval for use of existing disused playing area and the retention of the main pitch. Additional cost of extension of existing access route/driveway for emergency vehicles along the side of the main pitch.
H	Build on Crowtree House	Footprint too small



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