

Bemrose

Improvements: Expensive or not?

By Marshall

The Bemrose School in Derby, named after Henry Howe Bemrose, was built in 1930 for 400 male students. In order for the school to now accommodate for 1040 pupils there are lots of changes being made at the school.

The school's house system used to be different, first off, there used to be 7 houses, consisting of: Burke, Drake, Gainsbrough, Nelson, Newton, Sidney and Wellington. This changed to 4 houses consisting of: Hardwick, Kedleston, Chatsworth, and Haddon. In an interview with Mr. Denison, we found out that due to the increase of students there are head of houses now available to talk 5 hours a day, compared to the old heads of houses, which were teachers. Mr Denison suggested the school refurbishment is going to take Bemrose to an up to date era, the houses changed to the relating houses, but could be changed again with the following suggestions that he made, including: Hawkins, Dodd and Ambush for example. Mr Denison spoke about a lot of changes, when the school uniform changed, and when somebody who was year 11 at the time designed the logo which is now present on ties and jumpers to this day.

There will be a further 700 students added to the schools register due to a large increase in housing nearby and therefore the school is in the process of having a £14

million refurbishment starting with a new building on the site. The new building will benefit the students as 22 teaching spaces will be added which be unique science laboratories benefiting from state of the art technology. Also, there will be 5 innovative ICT suites all helping to improve the knowledge and grades for the soon to be 1740 pupils. The site manager found time in his busy work schedule to speak to myself about the building work, which is already underway. He spoke about the pre plan design and explained that a lot of the site was cut off, and pre-cut resources was brought onto site to enable to allow the building process to be quicker and easier. I also asked about health and safety, from the when the school was built in the 1930s and how health and safety has evolved and how different they do things today. The site manager suggested that the health and safety has changed since the health and safety act was introduced. Changes including: steel toecap boots, no asbestos, hard hats, high visibility and to ensure that all builders are safe onsite

The school in 2015 expanded to an all through school adding a primary phase. The costs of the spell which turned Bemrose into an all through school was £5 million, comparing this cost to the refurbishment, there is a difference of a stunning £9 million increase!

Bemrose has a lot of history, history dating back to the first world-war, and this still represented as part the Bemrose School's legacy, represented by 68 trees placed in memory if each child who died in world-war 1. We can't wait to see the improvements and look forward to benefitting from the additional resources available in the new building.