

Our new home is almost ready



The end is in sight for Mater Dei's new home. The Hall (*pictured*) and the School will be finished over the Christmas school holidays, ready for classes in the new year!

The new wing includes 14 classrooms, each 48m² in size, organised over two levels, the third level for Years 7 to 12 and the second level for Years Kinder to Year 6. Each classroom has an adjacent staff office, a 'tutorial' room for calming reflection, and a dedicated store-room. The Primary classes have their own bathrooms and every student will have a locker next to their class entry.

From these classroom levels, there is access via short ramps in a link to all the specialised facilities in the "Orphanage", such as the Library, Science Lab, Cinema, Computer Lab and Dance and Music Studios, already being used by students.

The classroom levels are linked vertically by two very generous, square spiral stairs, which lead directly out to the existing Pool and Playground areas and there is also a new lift connecting these levels.

All the classrooms have a wall of glass with a NNE orientation, which is shaded by a steel mesh frame that doubles as a window cleaning gantry. This aspect will provide a perfect balance of summer shade and Autumn/Winter/Spring solar gain, plus plenty of light.

The building has been designed so that it can be naturally ventilated, but all the rooms have air conditioning for the extremes in Summer and Winter.

The classrooms open out on to a central area on each level, which in turn opens on to a mesh enclosed terrace, for wet day play. The upper central area has a raked ceiling and NNE facing skylights, which will flood the interior with daylight even on the most overcast days.