



Design and Access Statement

For

Internal Reconfiguration of Spaces and Minor External Works

To The Argyle Building, Huddersfield Grammar School,

Luck Lane, Huddersfield, HD1 4QX.

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Heritage Statement.

The Existing Building

The Argyle Building was the original stable block to the original mill owner's house that is now the main school building and known as The Royds Building. Both buildings are listed Grade II.

It appears that the stable block was constructed in two periods, the first one is fair to assume was with the original house in 1862. There is evidence to show a vertical joint and that the front part of the building was built at a later stage, possibly between 1880 and 1890. There is a glazed canopy to the front of the building and it is thought that this dates from circa 1900.

The building was converted to educational use when what was then St David's College of Boys moved here in 1947. From that date, the building has undergone a number of ad-hoc internal changes, the main ones being the insertion of a staircase and the lowering of one half of the original first floor to create reasonable headroom at this level. (The other half remains at the original position which means that it is accessed via a door that is only around 1.75metres high.

Other changes include the addition of a flat roofed area at the rear which currently is used for changing rooms and toilets and the subdivision of the single storey part (which may have been stable boys' accommodation) to create a well being area and an office.

The external walls are 500mm thick probably with a rubble filled cavity and are faced with coursed regular stone block. The roof structure uses scissor trusses (more usually associated with churches of the era) and are covered with slate. There are stone features associated with domestic buildings of this area and age such as stone copings, kneeler stones, decorative stone arches and quoins.

The Proposals

The internal arrangement of the existing building is poorly suited to the current needs of the school and it is intended that once completed, the building will be a focus for musical and dramatic arts excellence.

Very little changes will be made to the original structure – the emphasis being on the replacement / modification of the changes made between the late 1940's and the present day.

The new staircase will take advantage of two existing windows – one of which is currently boarded up, the other partially boarded up. There will be new student toilets at ground level. There will be a drama performance area that occupies approximately the Eastern half and two smaller break out spaces at the rear in the Western half.

The first floor will have new toilets - one student and one staff toilet. There will be a staff office, a music classroom, two practise rooms and three peripatetic spaces.

Three new Conservation style rooflights will be added and minor repairs to the external fabric will be carried out. The unsightly fire escape bridge leading from the west side of the first floor will be removed and the door and window that leading to it will be replaced with a window to match the existing type that are generally located at ground floor.

No work is envisaged for the external areas that surround the building.

Access

There is only one part of the existing building that provides level access from the outside – the entrance lobby at ground floor – which immediately leads to the existing stair and steps up to the music room to the rear. The existing drama performance space is directly accessed from outside by means of a 200mm high step.

The proposed changes will mean that there will be only one entrance and which gives level access to the whole of the ground floor – a big improvement on the existing. Given nature of the existing building and its structure it will not be possible to provide access to the upper floors for wheelchair users. However, it is planned that replacement music teaching and learning provision will be provided elsewhere on the school campus should this need arise.