

Dear students, parents and teachers!

In March, the management committee had decided to use any means at their disposal to ensure that building would start in the summer and, should the desired changes of the facade not be accepted by the local authorities, to start the extension according to the planning permission that had already been granted.



The dialogue with the planning department which had gone quiet during winter, when the changes had been submitted, was finally revived by a decisive effort of everyone involved and therefore the preapplication process was concluded successfully. It is now only a matter of time until the planned changes will be formally accepted. The planning permission has not yet been granted officially, as had been reported in the recent DSLive. However,

preparations for the start of the building works are now running at full speed.

While going through the construction planning process, the school had decided to make changes to the plans that had received permission in 2006, and which thus had to be submitted again to the Planning Department of Richmond Council for their consideration. At the same time the school was required to provide more detailed information on the planned landscaping of the area surrounding the extension, as, e.g., trees and shrubs which have to be removed to make way for the extension will have to be replaced elsewhere on the school grounds. New paths were planned to lead around the extension and root protection measures for the beautiful old chestnut trees on the grounds had to be specified. The paved area between the main building and the gymnasium will be extended slightly and will include a new seating area. The planning for all this was provided to a large extent by Brita von Schönaich and her landscape design studio on a pro bono basis. Brita has two children at the DSL and her diligent work was instrumental in securing the approval for the changes submitted by us. We are very grateful for her commitment. For the cladding of the new building we have now selected a partly green facade with climbers, as this helps the extension to blend in with its surroundings which are classified as 'Metropolitan Open Land'.

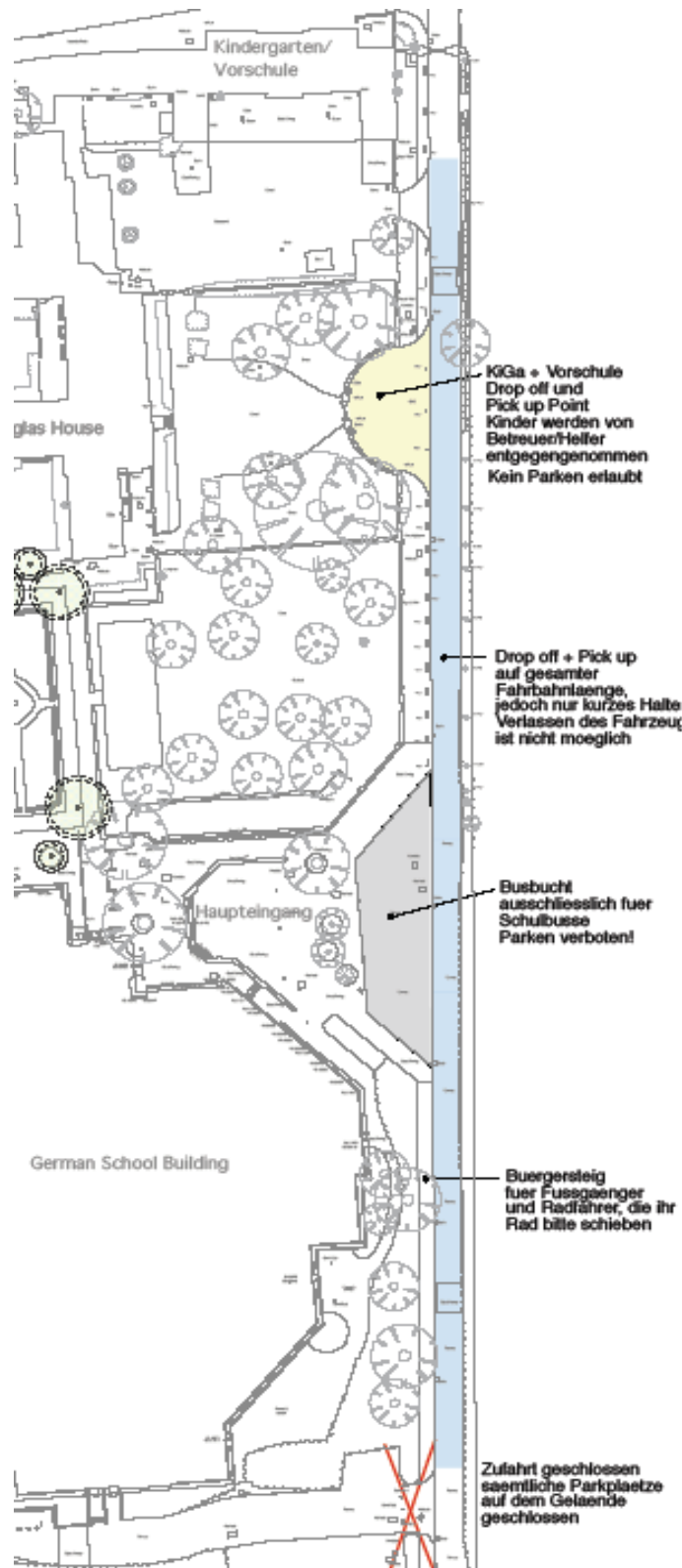


As it was not practical for our German architects to handle the tender process in the UK, the local firm Devereux Architects has been charged with the task of running a 2 stage process, the first of which is to find a building company to work as the main contractor. Currently they are interviewing potential companies. Following on from that, the selected contractor and the architects will ask for subcontractor bids from companies in Germany and the UK. The school is involved throughout the process and is able to influence any decisions. The 2 stage process is necessary to ensure the quality of the works and to enable better cost control.

Our time schedule specifies that all results should be collected by the end of the summer holidays, so that the contracts with banks and builders can be finalised at the beginning of the new school year. The new build committee is in favour of leaving sufficient time for these complex preparations to make sure that builders and planners will be an effective team by autumn half term 2010 when the actual building work is due to start.

Since visitors and staff parking will not be available during the entire course of the building works, a new traffic scheme will be tested close to the beginning of the works. The plan has been developed by representatives of the school, the new build committee and the parents' council and will redirect all traffic to drop-off and pick-up zones (see overview plan). A one-week test will enable us to pinpoint potential problems and to make improvements before the scheme is implemented after autumn half term. We would like to encourage you to begin now and consider alternative transport for the coming school year, be it by making more use of the school buses or by practising the use of public transport or bike routes with your children. After the holidays, there will be more detailed information on how the drop-off and pick-up zones will be organised as well as on how cyclists and pedestrians will stay safe on their approach to the school.

After the summer holidays there will also be an opportunity to voice any concerns at an information evening. In any case you can always contact us per email at dslbau@dslondon.org.uk with any questions or ideas you would like to contribute.



Marie-Luise Balkenhol
(Schulleiterin)

Manuel López
(Vorstand)

Claudia Hoffmann
(Neubauausschuss)