

School upgrade SSC feedback

As a parent of a student I am well aware of the need to upgrade Hastings secondary college and I am supportive that funds are spent to upgrade the school because the need is evident. I do have reservations that the budget is insufficient for the upgrade required and that the funds available need to be carefully spent. My primary concern is that the needs of all current students are met and that teachers are listened to regarding the suitability of proposed changes. My second concern is that the upgrade will be appropriate for projected school growth. The P&C has voiced their concerns regarding each of these issues. I also have concerns that consultation regarding the upgrade has been rushed, compromising effectiveness. In the past year parents (myself included) have had limited opportunity to visit the school (due to covid restrictions) meaning parents may be unaware which school buildings require attention. The lack of knowledge and on the ground experience may impact parents ability to comment if they feel out of touch. I suggest consultation could be improved by providing sufficient advanced notice of on-site information sessions held at varied times (to accommodate working parents), which include school tours, preferably with head teachers present for consultation.

A key issue is that I understand the planned works will lead to the loss of one science laboratory meaning that the school will have less capability to deliver practical classes. The loss of a science laboratory means that these works will effectively be a down grade for the school and that is unacceptable. There is a need to retain and refresh the current science labs to encourage and advance participation in science. This need has been stated by the teachers and their voice heard and supported by the P&C.

During my sole tour of Hastings secondary college, the principal advised that the toilets will be upgraded outside the existing outdoor court (year 7 area) and refurbished to be unisex with each toilet having an individual door opening to the outside. The plans as drawn do not seem to show this arrangement but rather indicate a single entry door to 6 toilets, presumably one for males and the other for females. This setup fails to preserve privacy and doesn't maximise ventilation.

I am told by my child that several windows in classrooms do not open or are not to be opened. I understand there is a need for windows to be fixed or replaced in many building to allow them to open, ventilate and cool classrooms.