



Dream Now project

Frequently Asked Questions

Construction

Q. What features will the new Performing Arts Centre and Library redevelopment have?

Performing Arts Centre	Library
A 630-seat auditorium	A flexible facility over two floors supporting a diverse range of educational experiences
Flexible stage facilities for performances, concerts and assemblies	Tailored spaces purposefully designed to support individual study and group collaboration
An engaging and welcoming foyer	A variety of learning spaces including reading nooks, research areas, classrooms, seminar and meeting rooms to support all types of learning engagement
Backstage facilities including change rooms, rehearsal spaces, make up areas, a green room	An integrated information services hub including technology and support desk
Eleven purpose-built music tuition and practice rooms	An outdoor terrace on each level
Four large Performing Arts studios including a black box theatrette	Additional entrance/exit (particularly for after-hours access) via Selbourne Road

In addition, Derham House will be refurbished and a connection to the Margaret McRae Centre (MMC) will be created via an underground walkway to the redevelopment.

Q. What is the timeframe for the entire project?

A. The construction phase of this project began in mid 2022 and is scheduled to finish by mid 2024.

Q. What is the name of the construction company building the new development?

A. After a rigorous tender process, Ireland Brown Constructions (IBC) was appointed to build the new Performing Arts Centre and Library precinct. IBC is an award-winning commercial construction company with significant experience in the government, independent and tertiary education sectors having most recently completed the sports and wellbeing centre at Korowa Anglican Girls' School. They have also completed large scale projects at Deakin University, Kooyong Tennis Club, Trinity Grammar School, Westbourne Grammar, Geelong Grammar (Toorak campus), and have recently commenced a new project at Xavier College.

Q. How will the School manage building noise onsite during school hours?

A. We are working closely with our builders and project managers to carefully plan the construction program to minimise disruption and impact on students and staff. Arrangements will be made to minimise any impact on the GAT and VCE exams.



Q. How will you manage traffic flow at school drop-off and pick-up times?

A. Traffic flow processes will be adjusted at various times of the project. Specific advice around the addition of a construction zone and pedestrian access in Selbourne Road is below:

Construction zone

- A construction loading zone has been set up on the eastern side of Selbourne Road adjacent to the building site.
- A section of the footpath on the eastern side of Selbourne Road will be closed at times to accommodate the construction of the loading zone and deliveries to site throughout the project.

Pedestrian access

- Pedestrians will be diverted to the footpath along the western side of Selbourne Road to bypass the construction zone closure.
- Students travelling to/from Trinity must use the main pedestrian gate entrance (Gate 1) in front of Henty House and carefully cross Selbourne Road.
- It is recommended that students catching the Glenferrie Road tram utilise the stops near the corner of Fitzwilliam Street and Glenferrie Road and walk along Fitzwilliam Street to/from School.

Vehicle access

- Vehicles are still not permitted to enter Selbourne Road from Fitzwilliam Street between 7.30-9.00am and 2.30-4.30pm on school days (buses excepted).

We ask parents and guardians to consider the addition of the construction zone to Selbourne Road during pick-up and drop-off times, avoiding this area where possible by making appropriate arrangements with your children in line with this advice.

Q. How will community events be celebrated during the construction period, without the existing Royce Theatre?

A. Throughout the pandemic, we adapted to online assemblies and will continue to use technology to support events while we build our new Performing Arts Centre. On occasion of a larger community event, we are utilising local community facilities or those of neighbouring schools.

Q. What classes are being held in the portables?

A. The Library, Music and some general classes have been relocated to the portables, now known as the Meraki Precinct. While no students are based in these classes on a daily basis, staff and students have quickly adapted to these new areas and they have become a favourite learning space.

Q. Can you guarantee the safety and wellbeing of my daughter during the construction period?

A. The health and safety of our students, staff and families is our utmost concern. The redevelopment site has been handed over to Ireland Brown Constructions (IBC) for the duration of the build. Hoarding has been installed around its perimeter. Students are not able to cross the hoarding line and equally, builders do not access our School site either. Working closely with IBC, building plans are frequently reviewed to ensure safety measures are appropriate and applicable to the current stage of construction.



Q. Does a bigger Performing Arts Centre and Library precinct mean you have plans to expand the School and increase student numbers?

A. The redevelopment of these spaces is the final component of Ruyton's 10-year master plan. Designed to optimise opportunities for our students, this facility will strengthen Ruyton's commitment to deliver an outstanding all-round education and secure our school's future as a leading educator of girls.

Our current number of homeroom classes at each year level from Early Learning to Year 12 will not increase because of this new development.

Fundraising

Q. Why is Ruyton promoting the *Dream Now* campaign?

A. Since our foundation in 1878, Ruyton has continued to grow and thrive. We have a history of building programs where the community has helped fundraise and make our facilities what they are today. Current and past parents, staff, alumnae and other members of our community have previously supported our school to make these projects possible. We are now seeking help to make this important vision possible today.

A campaign research study was undertaken in 2019 to establish the need for this redevelopment and whether Ruyton families would support a campaign. A number of community members were interviewed; the results of this study are available on request.

Q. What is the urgency around this campaign?

A. As our school hall and community meeting space, Royce Theatre sat at the heart of who we are at Ruyton and our current facility was inadequate in capacity and resources. The new theatre has been in planning for 10 years and will seat 630 people and support performing arts, public speaking and assemblies with flexible spaces to support learning, rehearsal and performance. It will inspire, shape and change those who use it and be a place our community can come together as one.

The Library is a significant component of a Ruyton girl's academic journey. With an acknowledged need to redevelop the building our current library was located in; we have the opportunity to create a bespoke and innovative learning environment. Our new library will be flexible, open and modern, offering information that is digitally and resourcefully relevant for individual study and group collaboration.

Q. COVID-19 and the current economic environment have impacted a number of Ruyton families. Shouldn't we be raising funds for them?

A. The School will continue to actively support families in need, including those adversely impacted by COVID-19. Supporting vulnerable members of our community is an ongoing Foundation priority and will continue through the annual giving and general gifts program.

Q. How much does Ruyton wish to raise for the entire project?

A. We are aiming to raise \$3 million in donations and pledges over five years in philanthropic support from our community. This is the largest ever fundraising campaign in Ruyton's history. The total projected cost is over \$35 million, so the fundraising target is less than 10% of the total build cost. All donations to our campaign are tax deductible.



Q. How much money have you raised so far?

A. Due to the generosity of a number of families in our community, we have already raised \$1.5 million towards our target of \$3 million.

Q. Why the need to fundraise? Don't school fees cover the cost of facilities?

A. School fees go towards the running costs of a school – staffing, maintenance and educational programs. Giving to special fundraising campaigns like *Dream Now* ensure that school fees are wholly directed to the education and wellbeing of students. All the modern facilities built at Ruyton (Margaret McRae Centre, the Junior School, John Bates Physical Education Centre and Aquatic Centre) were partially funded through the support of the Ruyton community in fundraising campaigns.

Q. What happens if there is a shortfall to the fundraising target, where will the funds come from?

A. The extent of the School's borrowings will be directly influenced by the amount raised in this fundraising campaign. Ruyton is in a strong position to see this campaign through, however it is relying on the community's support to make this dream happen now. If we don't reach our fundraising target we will still build to completion, however it is money we would prefer to allocate towards daily educational and operational expenses.

Q. How can our school pay for a project of this size?

A. The Ruyton Board has carefully planned for this project for the past few years. The School has been fiscally responsible, and with planning, cash reserve and select borrowings we are in a position to be able to build. Part of the budget includes a \$3 million fundraising target over the next five years.

Q. What are pledges?

A. Pledges are gift commitments made over several years (typically two to five). A pledge allows benefactors to spread their gift over time and plan payments flexibly. Pledges enable the School to plan its cash flow with some confidence and not have to approach people every year. Pledges and single gifts to the *Dream Now* campaign are fully tax deductible.

Q. Will there be any opportunities for naming and donor recognition?

A. Given our commitment to inspiring our girls and with immense gratitude to our donors, the School will have a number of naming opportunities in adherence with ATO guidelines. For more information, please contact Sally de Guingand, Director of Community Engagement or Peter Nelson, Chair of the Ruyton Foundation.