

The College of Richard Collyer

New Technology Centre.

Design and Access Statement.

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Introduction



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1.1 Purpose of Report

This Design and Access Statement (DAS) has been prepared by BDP with input from the consultant team on behalf of the Applicant, The College of Richard Collyer (CRC).

It is one of a suite of documents submitted to Horsham District Council for a full planning application for new school buildings, a new entrance gate, repositioned car parking and a redevelopment of the landscape at CRC on Hurst Road.

The DAS is to be read in conjunction with:

- Application drawings
- Planning Statement and associated forms
- Statement of Community Involvement
- Transport Statement & Car Parking Management Plan
- Flood Risk Assessment & Surface Water Drainage Strategy
- Arboriculture Method Statement & Tree Survey
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Statement
- Ecological Appraisal
- Noise Survey & Impact Statement

Summary of Proposed Development

Phased development of a new Technology Centre, associated landscaping, and reconfigured access and parking. The proposal relates to a site area of 1.82 ha and comprises work in Phase 1 and Phase 2:

Phase 1

- Erection of a new three storey building
- Replacement car park comprising 144 spaces (7% reduction to existing)
- 40 new cycle spaces
- Reconfigured vehicular and pedestrian access
- Permanent landscaping proposals
- Interim landscaping proposals in the location of the Phase 2 building

Phase 2

- Erection of a new single storey building
- Landscaped steps with connection to the roof of the Phase 2 building and first floor of the Phase 1 building



Proposed Site Plan: Phase 1-pink, Phase 2-green.

1.2 The Applicant

The College of Richard Collyer is one of the leading sixth form colleges in the country, the largest provider and first choice for A Levels across West Sussex – offering more than 45 courses across A Levels, BTECs, and T Levels, as well as courses in adult education and skills. The College is Ofsted 'Outstanding' and has a strong academic record, with 61% of students achieving A*-B grades at A Level and 84% of Collyer's students who complete a degree earning a 1st or a 2:1.

Founded nearly 500 years ago in 1532 by London merchant and Mercer Richard Collyer, the College has a rich history, a welcoming college community, and a clear aspirational culture – guided by Collyer's wish for 'none to be refused likely to learn'.

Collyer's serves students from seven partner schools located in close proximity to Horsham, as well as from across the South East. As a result of sustained growth in student numbers over the last decade, driven by population increases within its catchment area and strong academic performance, the College has experienced a significant rise in enrolment. This has led to increasing pressure on existing teaching accommodation which, in the short term, has been addressed through the use of temporary portacabins. These do not however represent an adequate long-term solution to the College's needs. In response, the proposed Technology Buildings will provide modern, high-quality teaching space which meets the College's current shortfall and helps to future-proof the campus against further growth.



The Grade II Listed Grammar School building on Hurst Road.

1.3 Project Team

The consultants listed below have contributed to this application for planning permission. Most of the team have been involved with the project since RIBA Stage 1.

Project Manager	Synergy
Planning	BDP
Cost Consultant	MEA
Lead Designer / Architect	BDP
Consultant Architect	Ritchie*Studio
Landscape	BDP
Ecology	BDP
Structure & Civil	BDP
MEP	BDP
Sustainability	BDP
Acoustics	BDP
Lighting	BDP
Fire Consultant	OFR
Transportation	Urban Flow
BR PD	BDP
CDM PD	BDP
Building Control	Wilkinson Building Control
Community Engagement	DevComms



Phase 2: the Arrival Plaza.

1.4 The Client’s Vision and Brief

The client’s vision is outlined below.

Increase Teaching Capacity

New facilities are required to meet the College’s current shortfall in teaching accommodation and help to future-proof the campus against further growth. Additional classrooms will increase teaching capacity for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and facilitate wider reconfiguration to create benefits for the delivery and growth of further subject areas.

A 500 Year Vision

The College of Richard Collyer was founded in Horsham in 1532 and is approaching its 500 year anniversary. The new Technology Centre will mark the anniversary and kickstart the next period of the College’s history, replacing the existing outdated technology provisions.

Legacy for Horsham

The project is intended to reinforce the positive image of the College and communicate the opening and welcoming nature of the College.

University Campus Feel

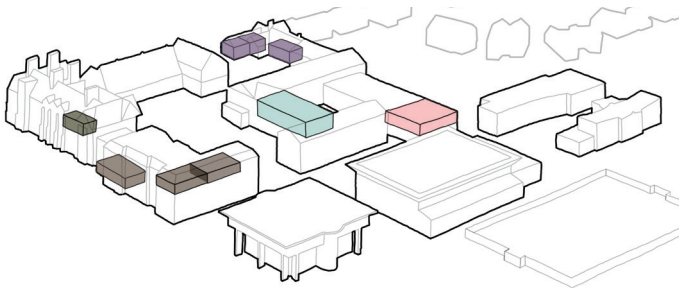
Preparing students for higher education is a key aim for the College. An estate more akin to a university campus will attract more students and help to acheive this goal.

High Quality External Spaces

The quality of the external spaces is as important for the College as their internal use. The project will create and activate well defined and human scaled external spaces.

A New Identity

Along with the new buildings, a refreshed entrance, site arrangement and landscaping give the College the opportunity for a new, contemporary identity.



The existing facilities for STEM subjects are scattered across the campus.



Existing technology classrooms.



The historic Grammar Building defines Collyer’s identity.

Context

2.

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2.1 Location

The College of Richard Collyer's address is:

82 Hurst Road

Horsham

RH12 2EJ

The College is located on Hurst Road, which leads directly to the railway station. Hurst Road has the 17, 61, 68, 71, 74A, 100, and 200 bus routes and is a short drive from the A24 main road.

The majority of students access the College from the Horsham Station, a 9-minute walk along Hurst Road. The town centre is accessible on foot via a footpath through Horsham Park.

Horsham Community Hospital is located opposite Collyer's on Hurst Road. The railway passes along the rear of the site, and the former Novartis campus is located opposite.

For more information, refer to the Transport Statement submitted as part of this application.



Google maps with CRC campus outlined in white.

2.2 History

The first building for the grammar school founded by Richard Collier in 1532 was constructed on Hurst Road in 1893. The building was bordered by the railway to the east, Richmond Road to the north, and Horsham Avenue to the south.

The building is the cornerstone of the gradual southeast expansion of the school. In the 1970s, English Heritage designated it as a Grade II Listed Building. Construction from the 1960s to 2022 resulted in a series of external courtyards oriented in an orthogonal configuration around the original 1893 building.

The main external space, Mercer's Quad, took over 75 years to complete and is made up of diverse architectural styles and features a fine specimen of American Oak.

The proposed development is located in the area currently occupied by the car park, continuing the historical expansion of the site in a southeastern direction along Hurst Road.



Grammar School Building (1893)



- 1893 Grammar School Building, Grade II Listed
- early 1900s Workshops (part)
- 1964 Duckering Bldg
- 1976 Buckle Bldg
- 1994 Cowley Sports Hall
- 2003 Library
- 2007 John Dew Bldg
- 2016 Graham Baird Bldg
- 2022 Shelley Bldg



1898



1934



1964



1970

OS Maps with the Grammar School highlighted in red.