

ROBERT WILLIAMS BICENTENNIAL BLOCK : FAQs		
Topic	Questions	Answers
BACKGROUND	What is the significance of 2023 for St. John's College?	2023 is the 200 th year since the founding of our college
BACKGROUND	How does St. John's College plan to celebrate the 200th (Bicentennial) year? Will there be many activities to mark this significant milestone?	We will be celebrating this important milestone with a flare of travelling activities. Details will be given closer to the date
BACKGROUND	When are the celebrations planned for?	The Founder's Day is the 5 th of May. We intend to celebrate around that time.
BACKGROUND	Why was the Robert Williams Memorial Block chosen to be the Bicentennial Flagship Project?	As we all fondly recall, Williams Hall is in close proximity to the entrance of the school and dismally it is now in ruins. Due to its dilapidated state, neither can it be used as classrooms nor to congregate. This does impact the college negatively in multiple facets. Therefore it has been unanimously decided to build this new structure: ROBERT WILLIAMS MEMORIAL BICENTENNIAL BLOCK.
BACKGROUND	What does the college stand to benefit from this project?	Over the years the College has erected different structures to celebrate each of its milestones: Henry Peto Hall for the 150 th and the office block for 175 th . The year 2023 will be our 200 th year. Not only will this new endeavour mark the Bicentennial milestone, but it will also bring in new classrooms which we desperately need.
STRUCTURE	Will the new structure look the same as the former Williams Hall	The Robert Williams Bicentennial Block will be an L shaped building. After taking into account the urgent need for classrooms and versatile space, this alternative utilizes the maximum space possible.
STRUCTURE	When will the construction of the new project commence and what is the estimated time of completion?	We anticipate the construction to take approximately a year to complete. To have the college prepared and ready by May of 2023 for all the celebration and festivities, we need to start towards the end of 2021, and finish by the end of 2022. However, if we can raise enough funds before that (approximately 60% of the total), we can commence immediately thereafter.
STRUCTURE	How/who will coordinate the progress of the construction?	The Principal and or his representative will take charge of all responsibilities to ensure a smooth operation. Furthermore, the Principal intends to appoint an engineer to oversee this project, and to co-ordinate with various stakeholders.
STRUCTURE	Will the new Building also include an auditorium as the old Williams Hall?	There will be a multi-purpose area which can be used for smaller meetings and also as a lobby/ entrance. This structure will not feature a hall (Auditorium).

STRUCTURE	Are there any original structural parts of the old WH be included in the new building?	In the room for the archives, we will preserve a part of the original wall from the Williams Hall as a reminder of our tumultuous journey during the 30 year conflict. We are keen to include the front door of the current Williams Hall.
STRUCTURE	What will be the defining features of the new Building?	The new building will house seven classrooms, two Pavilions, a room for the Archives, a multi-purpose area (Lobby / Entrance), a Storage room and two guests' toilets (Men's/Ladies').
STRUCTURE	Does the college need additional classrooms?	The new curriculum and the guidelines introduced by the Department of Education has compelled us to introduce various streams of studies, thus increasing the need for classrooms. This Building will provide us with 7 additional classrooms which will help us to meet this demand.
STRUCTURE	Why is an area designated for the archives?	At present all our trophies, memorabilia, photographs, and records are scattered in different areas of the college. The Library cannot hold/display them all. We intend to bring all of these into one place. Our college always has a steady flow of guests mainly consisting of old boys, often many dignitaries, well-wishers, Heads of NGOs, etc. This building will provide us with the stature to host them all in a dignified manner, while giving them an opportunity to learn about our college
STRUCTURE	Why are we designating an area as the Multi-purpose room/Lobby?	The lobby will be a multi-purpose area. It will be utilized as the lobby during sporting events/ college functions. Once the front and rear entrances are closed, it can be transformed into a meeting room. This area can also be used as a caterers' buffet for events of the college. Hence, this area serves as a crucial space of this building.
STRUCTURE	How will the classrooms be partitioned? Will the partitioning be permanent or temporary?	Partitions with railings will be more costly compared to the concrete walls. We can consider if the incremental budget is approved. Once the architect completes a rough estimate, we can make a decision.
STRUCTURE	Will all classrooms be smart classrooms?	We intend to have all of them as smart class rooms.
STRUCTURE	Will the new structure have adequate airflow/ventilation? Will the corridor block the lighting and the airflow of the top floor?	This has been thoroughly considered. Since all the classrooms will be Smart Classrooms, we have rigorously evaluated for the aspects of acoustics. Close attention will be given to include corresponding windows/ openings in the walls of the classrooms if needed.
STRUCTURE	Will any part of the building be air-conditioned?	At present, it is not part of the plan of the building. Perhaps it will not be necessary as there will be enough ventilation / flow of air.
STRUCTURE	How many bathrooms will this building have? Will the students have access to them?	Two bathrooms; they will be separate, being one for Ladies' and one for Men's. These toilets will NOT be used by the students. The students will continue to use the students' bathrooms that are currently in use.

STRUCTURE	While a project of such magnitude is being carried out, what efforts will be taken to assure the school will have no disruptions?	This has been carefully considered. Since the classrooms in the present Williams Hall are of no use, there will be minimal disruption to the college.
STRUCTURE	Is the bathroom located strategically for the access of cleaning and usage, without causing embarrassment or compromise the dignity of the building?	Yes they will be. This has been carefully thought out.
STRUCTURE	Will the view from the balcony of the pavilion be compromised as it sits further back compared to the ground level? In addition, the acute angle of the L of RWBB affect the view?	Downstairs pavilion: spectators will have no viewing issues. Upstairs: some spectators may not be able to have the view of the area in front of the dining hall. The angle of the L shape of the building if altered, will not align with the main pathway.
STRUCTURE	Will all the entrances to the building have double doors to avoid choke points?	All the doors/entrances will be designed/placed according to the safety guidelines.
STRUCTURE	Will the Tamarind tree be protected in its entirety?	The new building will be erected with such caution that all trees will be protected.
STRUCTURE	Is there a consideration to collect rainwater for other usage?	Since we do not have enough rainfall (seasonal rain), building a separate holding tank will incur additional cost.
STRUCTURE	Has the sewer system been scoped for the following- location as in preserving the dignity of the new Building and the College, easy access for serviceability, prevention of seepage?	Yes. There are conditions by which we need to conform. (Pre-cast Sceptic Tank)
STRUCTURE	Have the structural details been assessed and reviewed by independent qualified engineers?	The college has a rigorous process including having to acquire approvals from the Finance Committee (Which is part of the Governing Body) to ensure it carries out all efforts of development thoroughly.
STRUCTURE	Will all the current safety guidelines according to the SL bylaws be followed on this project?	The adherence to all safety guidelines is compulsory in order to acquire the approval of the local council before occupation.
STRUCTURE	Has the builder been selected?	The college has a very strict process to select the builder and suppliers. The Principal will ensure that.
STRUCTURE	Which graders will most probably be occupying these classrooms?	A final decision has not been made yet; however we feel most probably they will be occupied by the second year A/L students.
COMMUNICATION	Will you be launching this project globally?	We have scheduled to hold a Global Launch in March of 2021.

COMMUNICATION	Will there be a dedicated website for this Flagship project?	The dedicated website that will be informative and interactive will be launched on the day of the Global Launch.
COMMUNICATION	Will there be various communications to stakeholders through dedicated social media platforms?	Yes, we are evaluating having a Facebook, Instagram and a twitter page. We may do it towards the middle of this year.
FUNDRAISING	How/who will coordinate the fundraising with the stakeholders/donors?	The Principal and his administration are solely responsible for proper accounting of funds and delivery. We have the Global committee (EV 2023) which will help the Principal to raise the necessary funds together with the different chapters of the alumni committees. The college has also appointed Suba Francis as the Development Officer, who will also help us drive this project while being in Jaffna.
FUNDRAISING	Will there be different payment options provided for potential donors?	We will have flexible payment methods. All of these details will be provided in the dedicated website. This should make the process much simpler for the donors.
FUNDRAISING	How will the specifications of the plaques for the donors/sponsors be determined? (Individual as well as group sponsors)	We intend to honor and acknowledge all donors regardless of the amount, in some form or another. It will be announced once a decision is made. However, the sponsors of an area of the building (eg: Classrooms, Pavilion) will have a standard plaque displayed outside of that respective area.
FUNDRAISING	How does one donate towards this specific project?	Please contact your local OBAs and or Principal. The Global EV committee can also support. The dedicated website for the RWBB will include all such details.
FUNDRAISING	Will the potential donors be able to donate online?	Once the website is launched, they will be able to donate on this site. Since each country has its own rules and regulations, some donors may be able to get some tax benefits. Please refer to the website.
FUNDRAISING	What are the non-traditional /innovative ways have we decided to engage in order to support the fundraising?	A song dedicated by prominent artist (perhaps from the alumni) to compose record and promote solidarity. Auctioning limited edition artwork donated by renowned artist with the college theme/general, promoting through multimedia by doing audio/video interviews and publishing write-ups.
FUNDRAISING	Who will be part of the reservoir of donors?	We intend to tap every possible donor: Alumni, Well-wishers, NGOs and Corporates in Jaffna and wider Sri Lanka, Government Agencies and NGOs abroad and any other organizations like Rotary , Lions etc.
MARKETING	What is the cost for each area of the building?	please refer to the attached spread sheet
MARKETING	Will there be a monthly email to the EV committee and to the OBAs?	We will communicate on a monthly basis from May 2021 to all. In addition, the Website will be very informative.
MARKETING	Will we have merchandise earmarked for this project and how will they be promoted?	We are evaluating various merchandise to commemorate the 200th year, and the proceeds will go towards this project.