

Who are we?

Burnt Mill Academy is an 8 form entry secondary school serving 1,200 pupils aged between 11-16. Burnt Mill prides itself on being a caring and friendly school, and a place where students can feel happy, safe and they enjoy their learning. This positive environment, where students are supported and inspired to be the best that they can possibly be, enables every child to thrive. This school is Ofsted rated Outstanding and is the flagship school in the 12 school that form the BMAT Education.

Vision

To work together to smash through the barriers that prevent our children from becoming confident, high achieving and independent individuals.

Mission

Is to run a community of schools which provide an outstanding education for every individual attending a Trust school. Our schools will be places of aspiration, where individuals matter and confidence flourishes so that achievement for all is outstanding.

Values

As a Trust, we commit to living out the following values in our day-to-day lives at BMAT:

Courageous actions

We are courageous enough to make the tough decision, to do what's right – even if it's not what's popular.

High expectations

We are unwavering in expecting excellence of our teachers and expecting more of our children – for behaviours, relationships and academic results.

Servant leadership

We treat each other as peers, not as superiors, and choose to adopt a leadership style that asks: 'How can I help?'

The school has a well-established reputation for providing a high-quality performing arts education and a wide range of extra-curricular and community activities. The current facilities on site support these activities which range from sporting clubs, the Cadets and local community groups. The redevelopment will maintain the well established community use of the school site.

Why?

The new buildings for Burnt Mill Academy are to be funded as part of the school rebuilding programme (SRP). The SRP is managed by the Department for Education (DfE) and allocates capital funding for major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at school and sixth-form college buildings across England. Burnt Mill Academy has been identified as a priority School due to the age and condition of the existing 1960's buildings that are approaching the end of their usable life span.

The intention is for the School to remain in operation on the same site throughout the redevelopment process, with the finished scheme accommodating the same pupil numbers in revitalised state of the art teaching facilities with an enhanced hard and soft landscape setting.

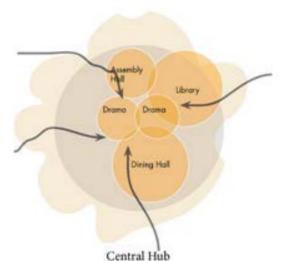
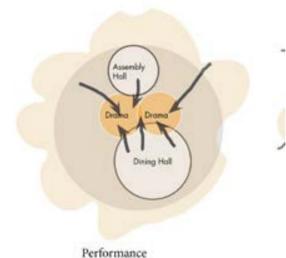
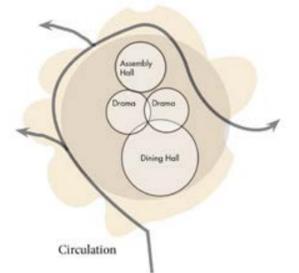
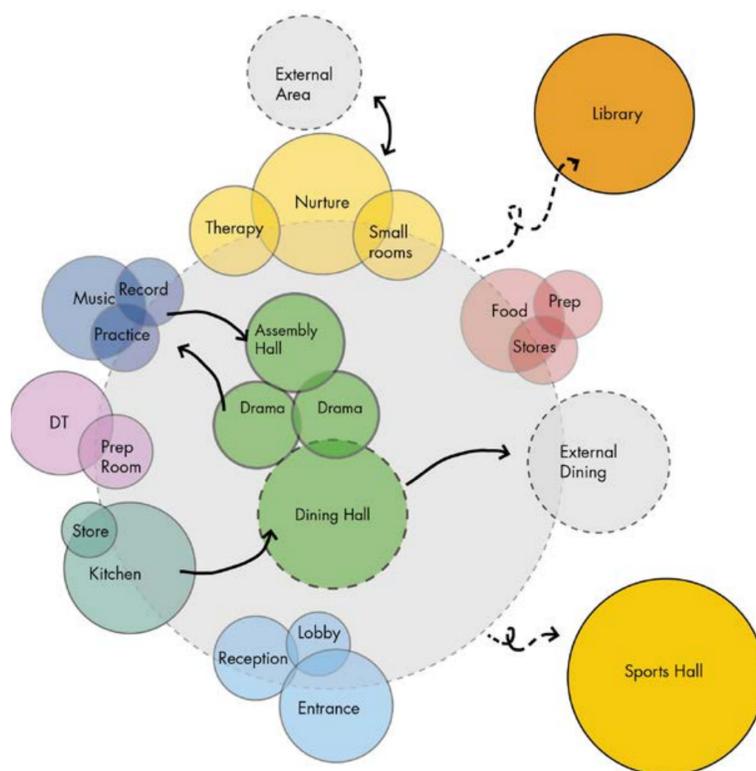
What are we Proposing?

Two new buildings are proposed, a main teaching block and a separate sports hall and swimming pool block, linked with a covered walkway to be completed by 2027. The buildings are sited to maximize usable external spaces, respond to the level changes on the site and create distinct micro-climates for external dining, hard play and outside recreational spaces for all. Sports are to be played on the new sunken MUGA courts and the existing open playing fields, preserving the open character of the northern portion of the site.

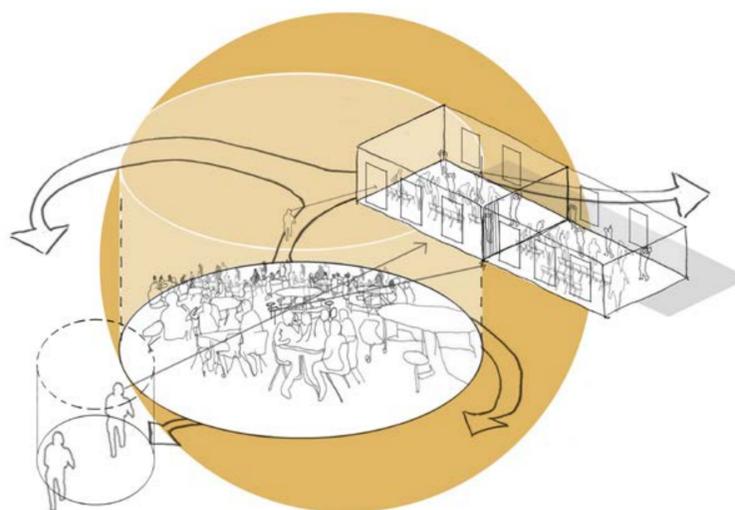
Through a rigorous design process and many iterations during the CEM meetings both the DfE and the Trust provided valuable feedback and requested changes to the emerging design. These were discussed and agreed and have been incorporated into the design as submitted.



Burnt Mill Academy Pupils



Internal Adjacencies Concept Diagrams



Initial Adjacencies Sketch

THE SITE BURNT MILL ACADEMY



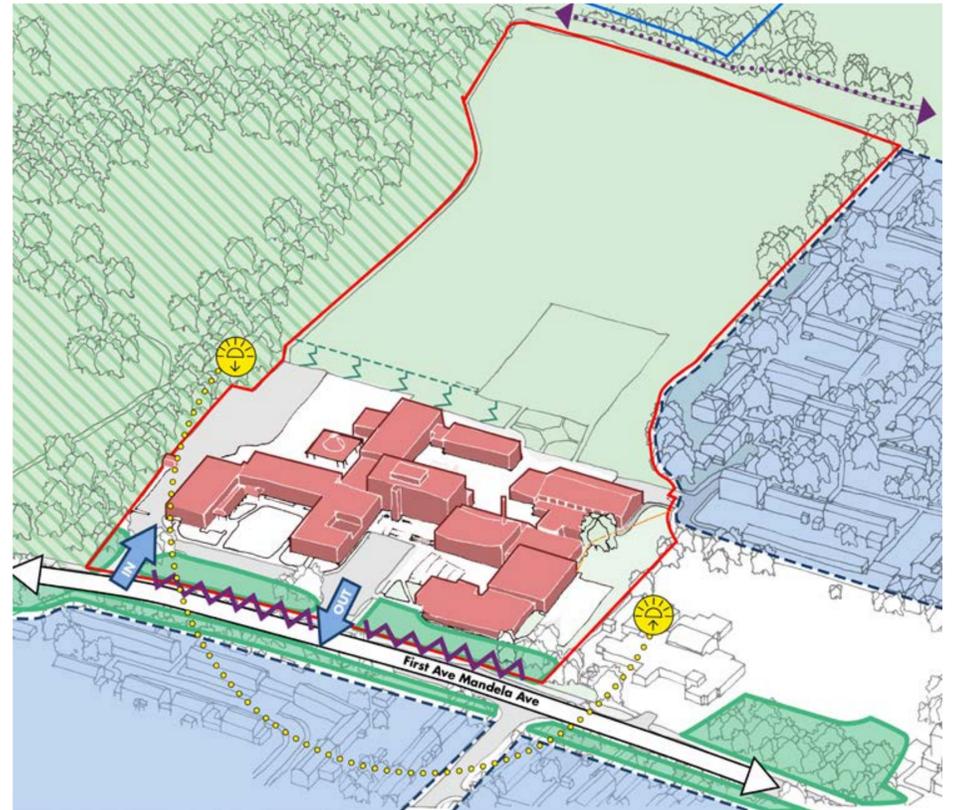
Site Context

The site is located off First Avenue and is currently occupied by Burnt Mill Academy and associated playing fields, outdoor space and car parking. The site is rectangular in shape and is approximately 5.52Ha in area.

The existing school buildings are all located in the southern third of the site and are a mixture of 2 to 4 storey flat roof buildings. The topography across this built area of the site has significant level changes (approx. 3m east to west) The changes in level are marked by steps, ramps, slopes and retaining walls.

Immediate surroundings to the south and northeast are characterised by low rise, suburban residential homes. A large portion of the surrounding area (north and west) is designated as Green Wedge, including the Grade II listed Harlow Town Park. To the east of the site is predominantly two-storey housing and St. Albans Catholic Primary School.

The vegetated boundaries around the site are an integral component to its landscape character and also play an important role in diffusing noise, screening views and serving as an ecological corridor. Those to the front of the site are designated as Green Finger. Planting and maintenance strategies will need to recognise the importance of these green edges and seek to reinforce them, both in terms of design but also maintenance.

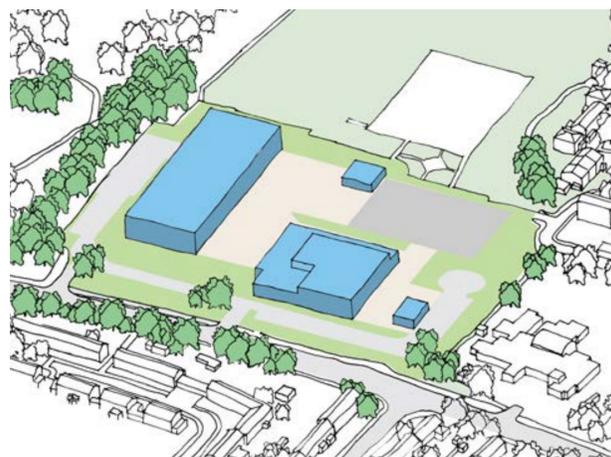


Site Constraints Diagram

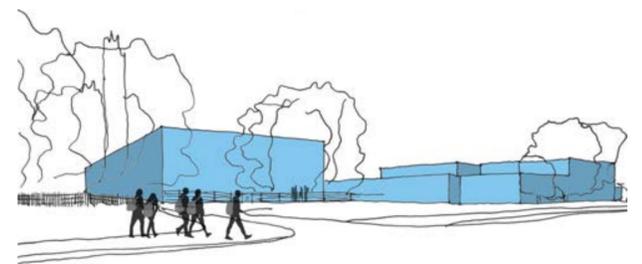
Massing

The design process for Burnt Mill Academy began by testing a broad set of design options to ensure that every possible approach was considered. The conclusions from the site analysis were to ensure that the buildings were located on the existing built up area to the South of the site. Locating the buildings here allows access from and presence onto First Avenue, simplifies the secure line and limits the impact on Green Wedge by concentrating the built area and leaving the larger northern parcel open.

Multiple massing options within this area were considered and tested against key criteria including the impact on the surrounding context, the effect on the existing school site during construction, the ease of access for pedestrians and vehicles and the external landscape areas created around the proposed buildings. The selected massing option offered us the following advantages.



Massing Sketch



Massing Eye-level Perspective Sketch

Advantages

- Good frontage to First Avenue for both buildings
- Retains existing access arrangements
- Minimises disruption to the operation of the School during Construction
- Simple secure line using the front of both buildings, minimising fence area and creating a separation between pupils and visitor
- Site layout allows for ease of supervision for pupil safety and managing pick-up and drop-off
- Tree planting to front of the site along First Avenue retained and enhanced
- Locating the buildings on the existing footprint means there is minimal impact on Green Wedge and Harlow Town Park
- Creates clear and legible external spaces with direct relationships to the buildings - eg. external dining adjacent to the dining Hall, MUGA and sports pitches adjacent to the changing rooms.
- Achieves day-lighting requirements
- Achieves school adjacency requirements
- The pop-up stair cores in full height Essex red brick serve to break up the massing and provide relief to the elevation



Concept Elevation Sketch

Historic Background

New towns were identified in the Greater London Plan of 1944, the New Towns Act passed two years later made them possible. The purpose of these new towns was to house people and industry to assist with reducing overcrowding in London. They were intended to be self-contained, balanced communities rather than satellites to London. The original master plan for Harlow was prepared by Sir Frederick Gibberd in 1947 and has been the framework within which the development of the town has taken place.

The provision of schools for Harlow was one of the main concerns of the Essex Education Committee in the 1950s. Burnt Mill School, First Avenue, opened in 1962 as part of Passmores school and moved later that year to new buildings, which were enlarged in 1969.

The Site's original and ongoing use has always been for education facilities, however the buildings and wider complex have undergone numerous changes. The design of the current buildings is contemporaneous with the design of the new town but arguably it is not the buildings themselves but their form, layout, use and how the Site interacts with the spatial arrangement relative to the master planned new town that is of most importance. They are not considered to be a heritage asset in their own right but are typical of their age of construction and have been adapted and refurbished as required by the needs of the school.

Heritage Assets

The Site sits adjacent to the Grade II Harlow Town Registered Park and Garden and the Harlow, Town Park and Netteswell Cross Conservation Area which make up one of the important 'green wedges' and were part of Gibberd's original design for the new town. If the park were not so tightly constrained by urban development it would not be possible to appreciate its history as an ingrained part of the new town masterplan.

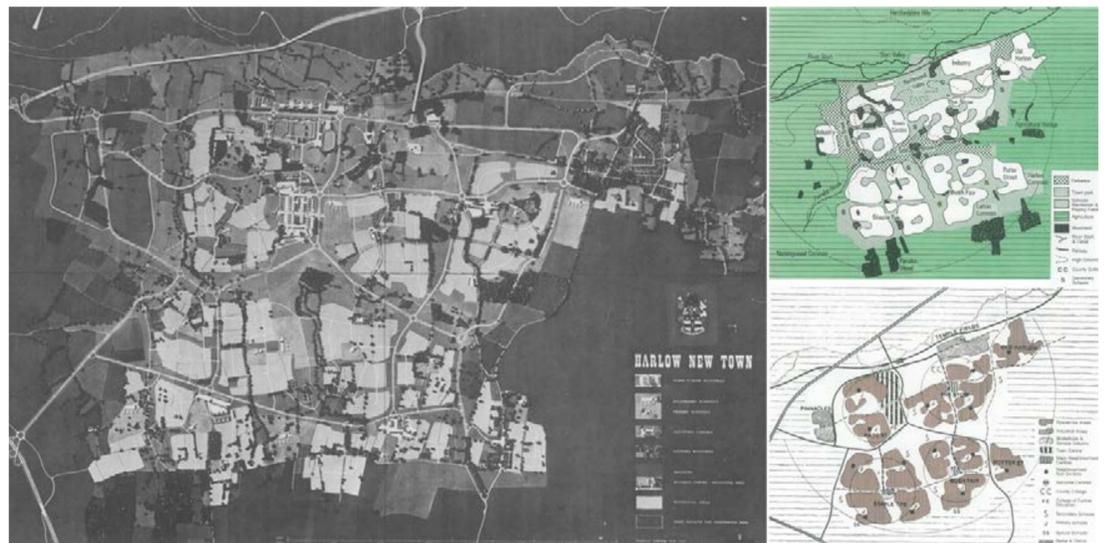
The location of a school at the Site, in such close proximity to the edge of the park and conservation area is therefore a contributing element to the character and significance of these heritage assets. Due to the undulating topography of the park, the existing school on the Site is not visible from the built form in Netteswell Cross nor the public walkways in the majority of the park. However, the school is visible from the footpaths within the western edge of the heritage assets and these glimpsed views do serve to reinforce the character of the park as an integral part of the town with a close relationship between the urban development and the green wedge.

Proposed Design

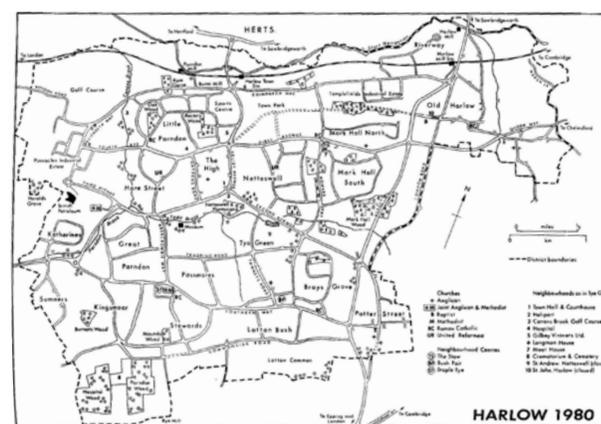
Importantly, in heritage terms, the Site is being maintained as an education facility. It is this use that is a contributor to the special arrangement of the masterplan and how it intersects with the relevant heritage assets.

In terms of the design of the new buildings these reference the period, style, scale, materials and detailing of the existing buildings. Design details that are drawn from the extant design including the cladding, flat roof, horizontal emphasis and pattern of fenestration that all help retain the understanding of the Site as part of a New Town design.

Harlow Town Master Plan



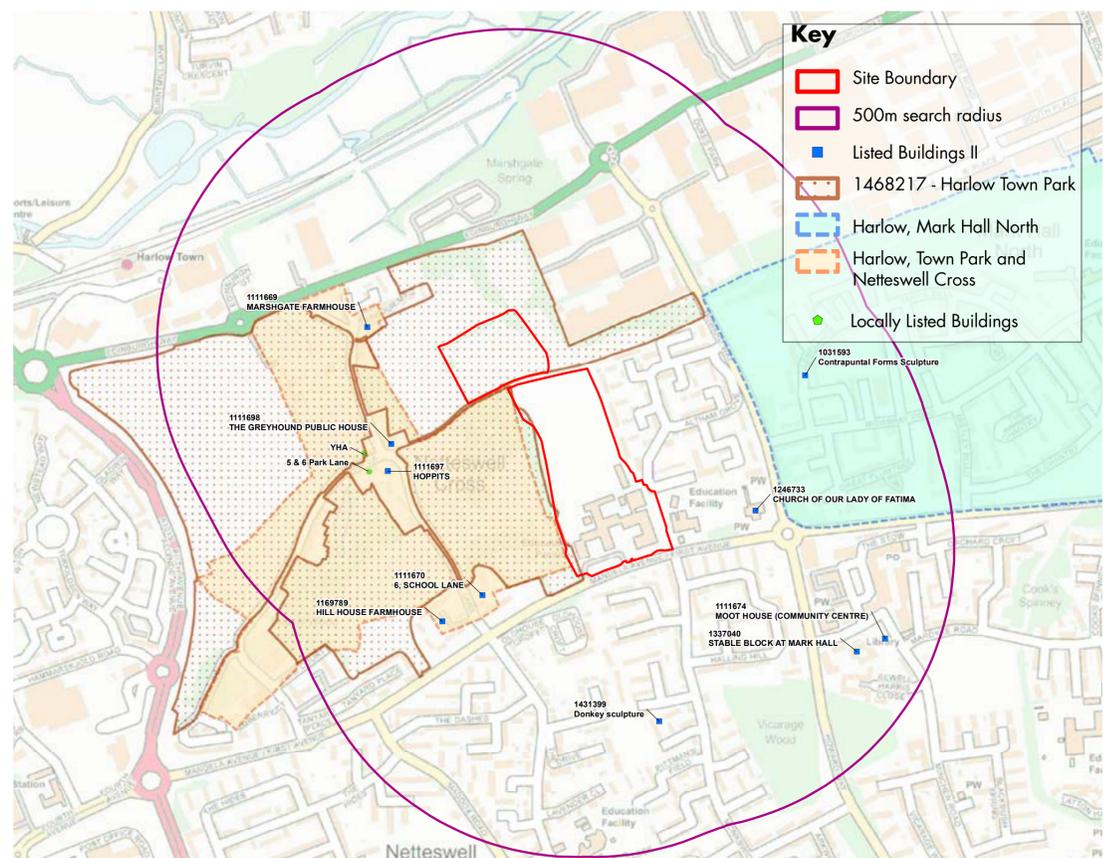
Harlow Town 1980



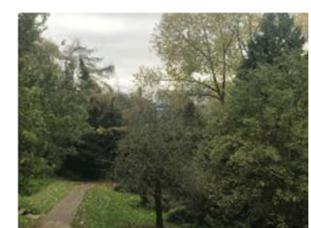
Boundary of Harlow Town Park & Garden (Grade II)



Built Heritage Asset Plot



Existing Site Photos



Land Use

The site has been designed to include a wide variety of generous external areas, with separated social spaces both informal and formal that are suitable for every age group all year round. Enhanced connectivity between indoors and outdoors allows teaching and learning to be easily carried into the nature rich landscape, enriching the learning experience for pupils, as well as bringing health benefits from a closer connection with nature.

Burnt Mill Academy will provide a vibrant and stimulating learning environment for pupils. The landscape, the use of external sports, education and recreational facilities are fundamental to the achievement of this agenda, with a focus on external interactive learning as a method of best practice.

Design Features

- External Dining provision
- A large Multi Use Games Area with terraced seating.
- Photovoltaic Canopies providing shelter and shade for all year round outdoor learning.
- Covered cycle shelters.
- Tree, shrub and herbaceous planting for a green, nature based education and play environment.
- Growing facilities including an orchard and raised beds for nature focused learning.



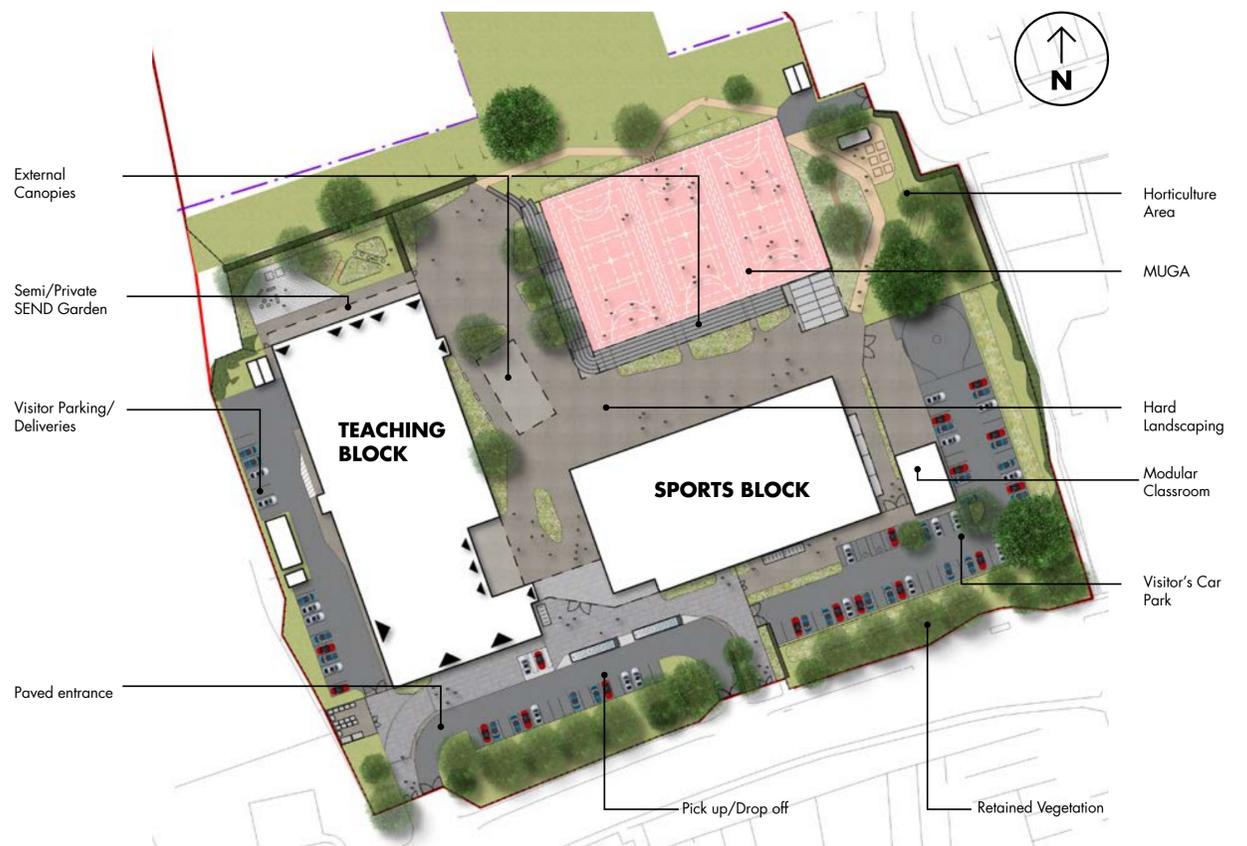
View of the Multi Use Games Area



Aerial View from the South

Key Design Objectives:

- A new 3 storey teaching block and separate sports block on the footprint of the existing buildings.
- The existing vehicular access and highways infrastructure to the front of the site will be maintained and reused.
- Keeping the development footprint away from the designated green space to the north of the site.
- Large Multi Use Games Area and flexible play spaces
- Efficient Car Parking layout for both staff/visitors and maintenance vehicles.



Landscape Masterplan



The proposal both safeguards and enhances the existing mature tree setting of the Harlow Green Space to the north of the site. Combinations of single species hedges, shrub and herbaceous borders and amenity and meadow grasses are used throughout the site to soften external spaces and highlight key routes and entrances and further add to the biodiversity net gain of the site ensuring the proposals have a positive impact on habitat creation.



We have concentrated on providing as much usable external space as possible by creating good informal and social play areas for use all year round. The social spaces will incorporate seating to cater for groups, with good connections to the main Dining Hall for outdoor dining.

We have provided diverse and covered play spaces to ensure that the external environment focuses on mental wellbeing and varied uses.



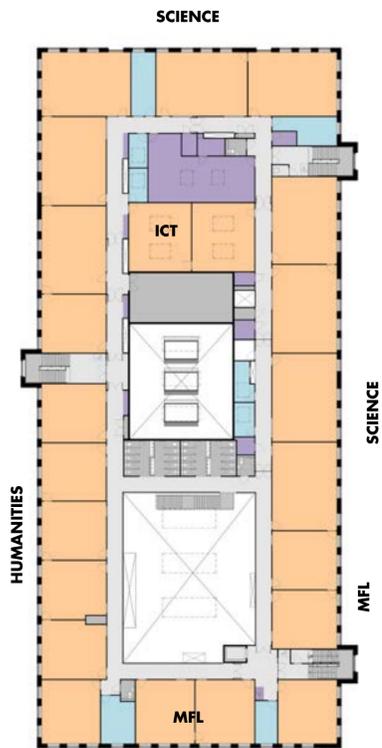
The siting of the Sports Hall and 3 court Multi Use Games Area has provided an opportunity for areas of informal play. Basketball hoops mounted to the sports hall maximise the opportunity for sport. This 3 court Multi Use Games Area, depressed into the landscape to create an amphitheatre, provides ample opportunities for informal play and delivery of the curriculum.

THE BUILDING – INTERNAL

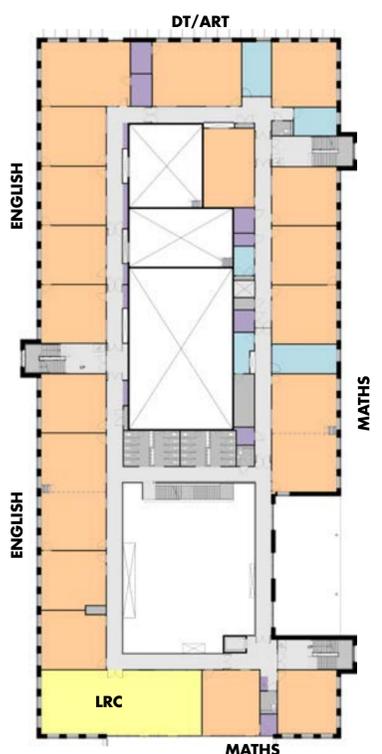
BURNT MILL ACADEMY



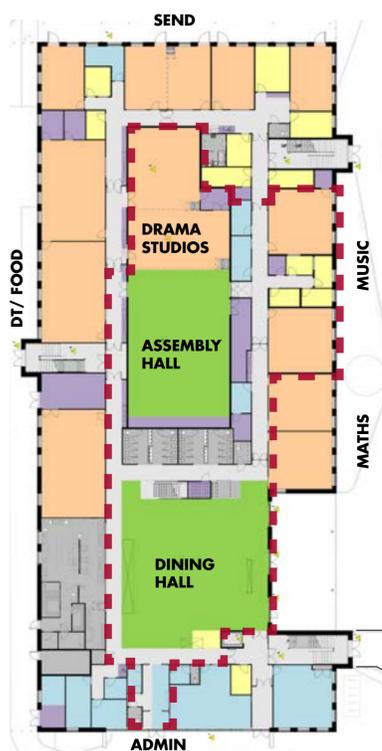
**BOWMER
+ KIRKLAND**



Second Floor Plan



First Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan

Key Adjacencies

- A well-considered design that provides a landmark building for the Trust whilst also being sensitive to context and opening up to the local community.
- Separate visitor and pupil access from the South
- A large central atrium housing the dining hall with direct connections to outside and large amounts of natural sunlight.
- Locating the Main Hall adjacent to Dining allowing it to act as a Foyer for out of hours performances.
- Providing folding partitions between the Main Hall and Drama Studios to create a prominent stage and large backstage area for performance.
- Logical circulation loop around from the central atrium for accessibility and ease of class transfers
- Providing the Library as a prominent space on the front of the building
- Logical arrangement of departments for key adjacencies and shared resources
- Central toilet blocks located adjacent to dining for ease of supervision
- Dialogue between Teaching and Sports Blocks with covered canopy access between the two.
- Direct access through to external areas from key spaces including Dining, ground floor classrooms and pupil changing rooms.

KEY

- Basic Teaching
- Large Spaces
- Learning Resource
- Staff & Admin
- Storage
- Swimming Pool



View 01 Swimming Pool



View 02 Dining Hall



View 03 Main Hall

Community Access

The Sports block has been developed as a standalone building with its own public entrance opening onto the car park. It is possible to securely separate the two sides of the building so the Swimming Pool can be used by community groups during the School day. After hours the entire block can be offered out for community lettings.

The new secondary school has been designed to accommodate a variety of community uses. The Main Hall, Drama studios and music classrooms can be opened up to be used for after School performances with the Dining space functioning as a foyer. The Library and several classrooms can also be used for Adult Learning outside of school hours.

The modular classroom will be relocated from its current location on the site to fit into the new landscape masterplan and allow out-of-hours access.

THE BUILDING – EXTERNAL BURNT MILL ACADEMY



Elevations

The external materials were chosen for their robustness at ground level, durability and resistance to discolouration over time and quality of finish, with brick to the ground floor, wrapping up to the parapet at key entrances and stair cores, and a regular pattern of cladding panels above. The same design language is used across both blocks to give a unified feel to the buildings.

The elevations were designed to highlight the vertical circulation cores by taking brick up to full height to break up the long elevations. The main entrance, pupil entrance and Dining (the social heart space of the School) are clearly expressed externally by using feature materials, double height windows and areas of curtain walling. A canopy in the feature colour wraps around the main entrance to aid wayfinding and highlight this important view from First Avenue.

The window sizing and design is based on a proven system that achieves the DfE's strict environmental requirements - providing optimum ventilation, avoiding cold draughts and ensuring a uniform level of light distribution across the entirety of the classrooms. Arranging the windows in a regular grid pattern creates rhythm along the facade and references the geometric articulation of prominent buildings in the historic Harlow New Town style.

Key

-  Essex Red Brick
-  Orange Feature Cladding
-  Light Grey Cladding
-  Buff Brick



View 01 Main Entrance



View 02 Central Avenue



Site Elevation from First Avenue



South Elevation



North Elevation



Detail Elevation showing brickwork and cladding colours



East Elevation



West Elevation

Overall Approach

Bowmer and Kirkland has extensive experience working with the Department for Education (DfE), having successfully delivered in excess of 90 education projects. B+Ks own configure design solution, developed through years of research and development, ensures that the delivery of Schools meets or exceeds the stringent Technical requirements of the DfE and Building Regulations compliance. For Burnt Mill Academy we have used this system to achieve a design solution which meets the Trust's requirements, with separate sports facilities across multiple phases, delivering a new education facility for Harlow that will achieve Net Zero Carbon in Operation.

Communications Strategy

Bowmer + Kirkland are members of the Considerate Constructors Scheme which monitors our progress and liaison with our local neighbours. We will communicate our plans through various phases of the project to update you on site activities at necessary stages. Our engagement with the school usually occurs weekly so the trust is kept up to date with activities – enabling communication when necessary to parents, teachers and students. B+K also engage with students on the benefits of STEM and careers within the construction industry, attending workshops and assemblies to brief students and highlight necessary health and safety messages of the construction activities.

Construction Phasing

The programme of works has been phased to allow continued operation of the school whilst providing high quality new education facilities that Harlow can be proud of. During construction, areas of the existing site re-provided temporarily with partially demolition phases, allowing space to create the new facilities. The Teaching facilities is proposed to be built first with sports provision built towards the end of the programme. Continued operation of the school was of the utmost importance when the project was phased including safe working zones and maintaining fire evacuation of the site.

Outline Programme

PHASE 1 –

Temporary teaching block provided

PHASE 2 –

West Wing of existing building demolished

PHASE 3 –

Construction of Teaching Block including

PHASE 4 –

Demolition of the East Wing of existing building

PHASE 5 –

Construction of Sports Block including swimming pool

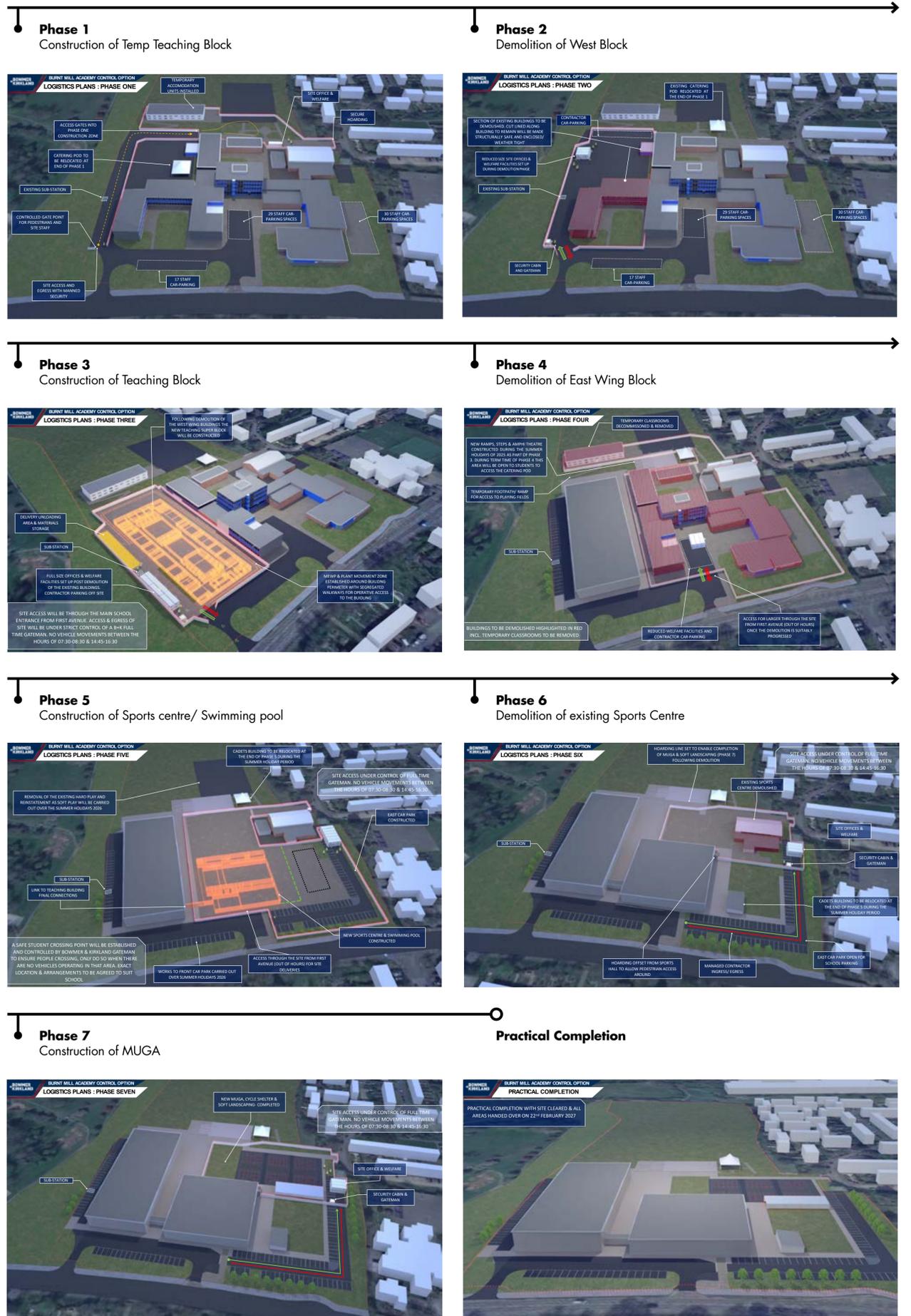
PHASE 6 –

Demolition of existing Sports Block

PHASE 7 –

Construction of MUGA

PRACTICAL COMPLETION



Access

Access will be provided from the existing points available in First Avenue, with a separate entrance and exit. Emphasis has been placed on continuing to provide pedestrians with safe and secure routes, with a separate gated entrance from vehicles. Staff car parking will be provided in secure areas within the site. Visitors access for vehicles will be limited to the main entrance / exit / circulation zone.

During the construction period B+K will ensure that all working areas and construction vehicles will be segregated from pupil access routes through the use of barriers and managed by marshals/banksmen. B+K will seek to minimise noisy operations during school opening hours and maintain regular communications with school staff regarding the works.

Sustainability

The majority of students live within a 3.2 kilometre radius of Burnt Mill Academy. Travel Survey Results also suggest that approximately 70% of pupils travel to and from school by sustainable modes. The site has good local transport links, including regular bus services and it is anticipated that the majority of people travelling to the site will travel by sustainable means (i.e. public transport, walking or cycling).

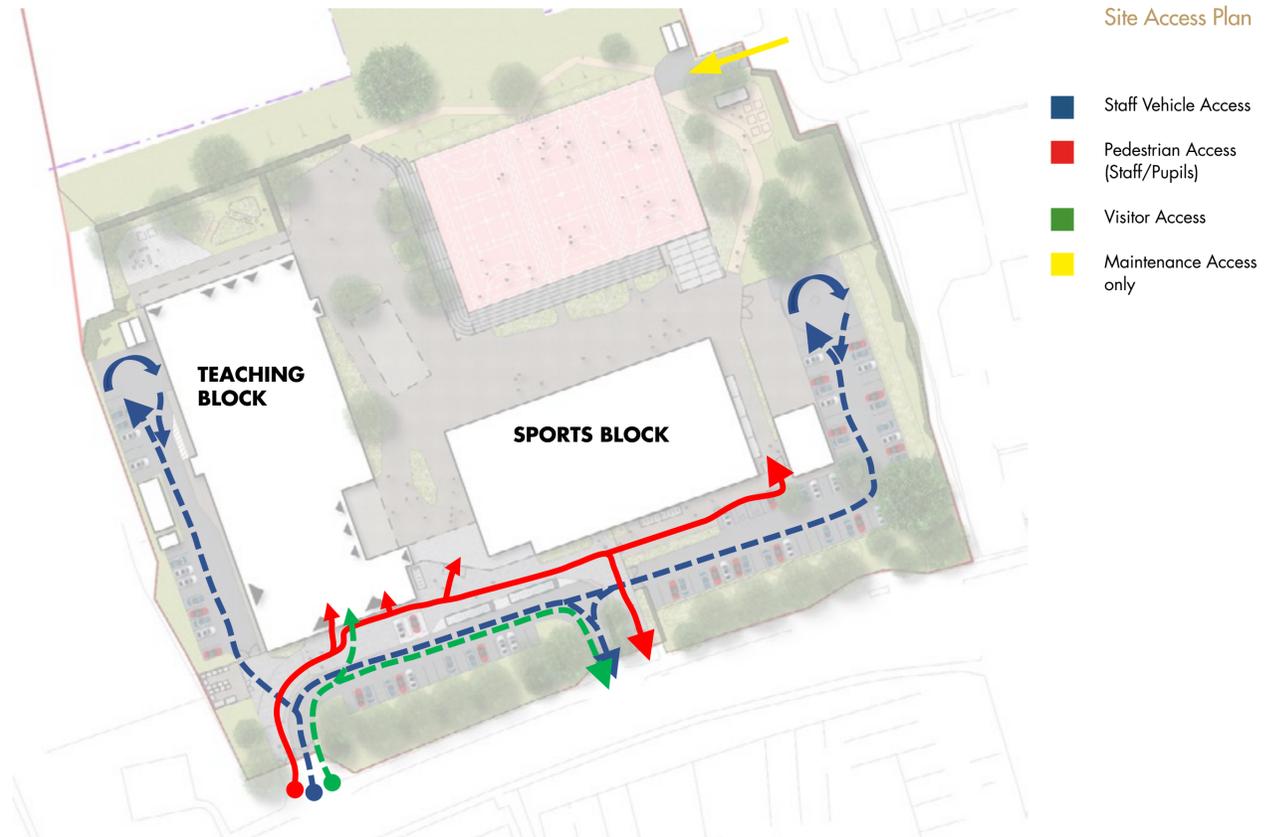
Transport

The site has good transport links, providing a realistic choice in sustainable travel modes, ultimately reducing parent and staff reliance on the private car. Local bus services are located along Burnt Mill Academy's southern boundary on First Avenue, including

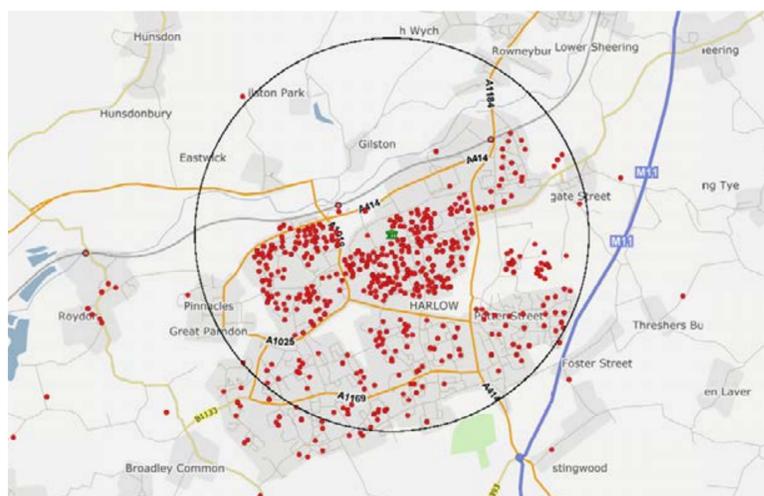
- 8 (Harlow Town Centre – Old Harlow Post Office)
- 10 (Church Langely – Harlow Town Railway Station)
- 59 (Chelmsford – Harlow)
- 508/509/510 (Stanstead Airport Coach Station – Harlow Town Centre).

Benefits

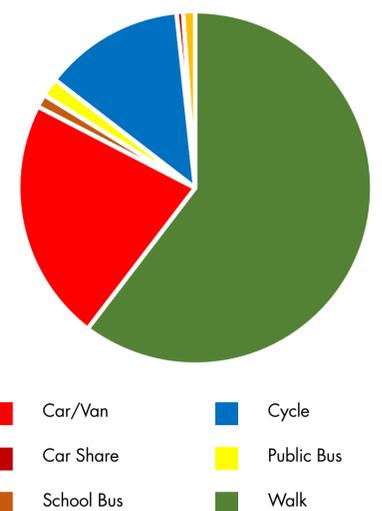
- Increased electric vehicle charging facilities;
- Improved cycle parking provision;
- Revised access gate arrangements to reduce risk of vehicles waiting on First Avenue;
- Segregated pedestrian/cycle and vehicle access points;
- Opportunity to revisit and enhance School Travel Plan.



Pupil Home Locations



Travel Survey Results



NEXT STEPS

Thank you for coming to this consultation today.

Having viewed our proposals for the new school buildings for Burnt Mill Academy we would be delighted to hear your views. If you have any questions, please ask a member of our team. We will listen to your feedback and take this into account, where possible, as we evolve our plans for planning submission.

Contact Us

Please let us know what you think of our proposals. You can leave feedback by filling out a consultation feedback form and leaving it with us or comment online.

- Consultation responses will be analysed and the comments taken on board and addressed as required
- A planning application will be worked up and submitted to Harlow Council. The accompanying Statement of Community Involvement will set out how the consultation process was planned, carried out and responses acted on.
- The planning application will be submitted on the 20th February where you will then be able to view the application on the council's website.

You can also leave feedback online by filling out a digital form at the web address below.

<https://dppukltd.com/burntmillacademy/>

Key Benefits of the Scheme

- Provide a vital investment in education in the area
- Help Burnt Mill Academy continue to deliver outstanding education to local children
- Provide new purpose built school facilities that will deliver an excellent quality of education
- Provide sporting and other facilities which will be made available to the community outside of school hours
- New swimming facilities which will be accessible to the community