

Introduction

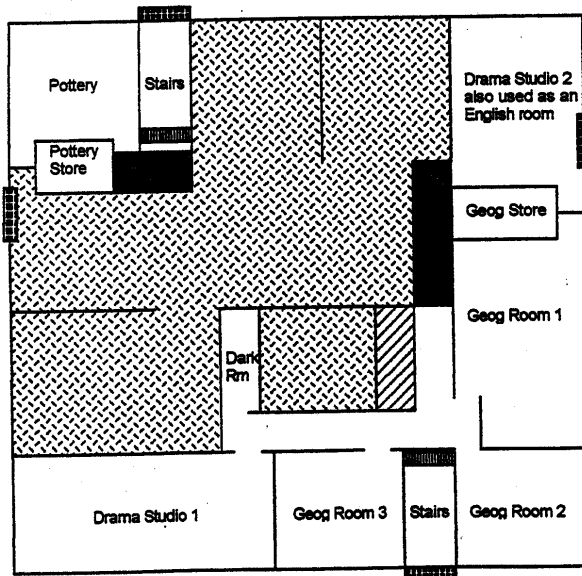
As a result of the fire in the early hours of the morning of Sunday 17th August many ground floor areas have suffered extensive fire damage. All other departments housed in E Block suffered extensive smoke damage. In total the damage is so extensive that the estimated time for contract organisation and rebuilding is in the region of 37 weeks. Given that the school is to be rebuilt in 2006 I believe that the most effective solution in terms of both time and money is to permanently seal the former Art department with the exception of the pottery room and the senior Art room/ staff base. In terms of minimising the disruption to education, time is the most important consideration.






Despite extensive smoke damage, the pottery room and the senior Art room survived, partly because of their corner location and partly due to their traditional "closed" classroom construction. Also surviving, but smoke damaged, on the ground floor, are the former senior common room, the Art Darkroom, an English room, the Gaelic room and the Drama Studio. The upper floors of E block suffered extensive smoke damage with the stairwell at the rear of the block suffering particularly severe damage.

The following pages explain how we intend to restore E Block. It is anticipated that the restoration of E block as proposed in this paper would be achieved by early October. I believe that this is a realistic proposal and would minimise disruption to the education of our pupils.

In addition to the changes described for E Block the RE department will require two classrooms in the main building. It is intended that the RE department will occupy rooms in the Science corridor.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN (Drawing not to scale)

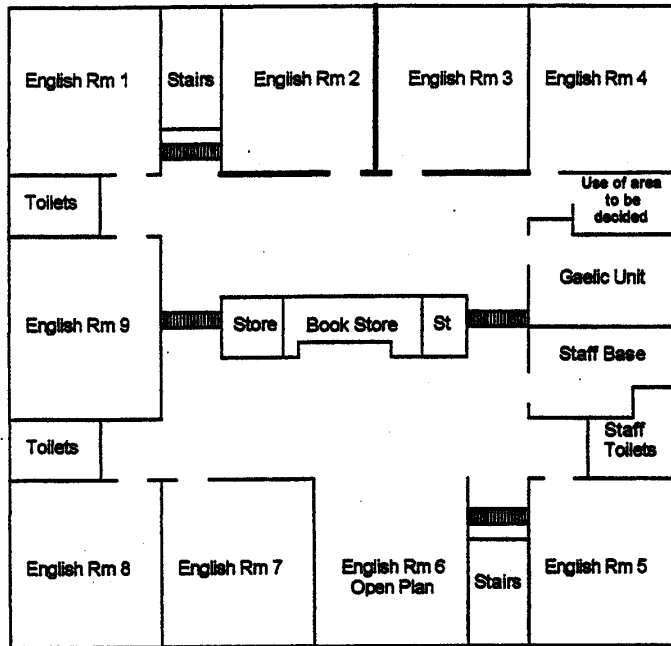


- KEY**
-  New corridor
 -  New Geog Store
 -  Areas lost to teaching due to fire damage - these areas will be decontaminated and used for storage
 -  Emergency / fire escape routes
 -  Fire Doors

On the ground floor the existing Drama Studio would remain as a Drama Studio. The new Geography department will be located on the ground floor with additional storage space being provided for the Geography department by forming a new large cupboard area. The former senior Art room/staff room would become a second Drama Studio accessed via a new link corridor. Also on the ground floor, the existing Dark Room could be renovated with access to the Dark room from the corridor adjacent to the existing Drama Studio.

The former Art area would be decontaminated and sanitised to provide a safe basic storage area. Since the storage area/ former Art department would not require natural lighting, the fire damaged windows would be blocked off using decorative panels thus enhancing the general future security of the building.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN (Drawing not to scale)

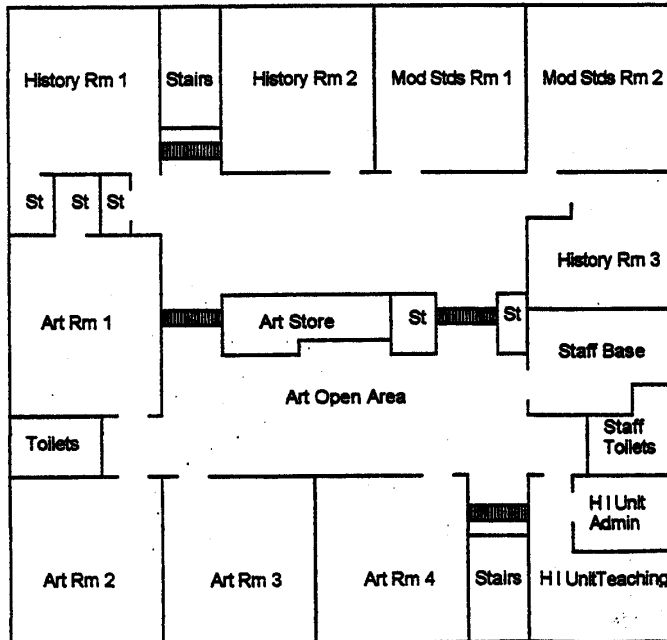


The first floor of E Block, currently occupied by the English department, requires only minor modification. The large open area would be partitioned to form two full sized classrooms. The main advantage here would be that the English staff would be grouped together on the first floor. I propose that the "English Computer Base" should become the new Gaelic Education unit. (The relocation of the Gaelic Education unit would be subject to further consultation)

KEY (Both plans)

- New fire rated partition wall to create classrooms from open area
- ▨ Fire Doors

TOP FLOOR PLAN (Drawing not to scale)



The teaching of Art requires the provision of a specialist classroom and I believe that this can most effectively be achieved by modifications to the upper floor of E block. Two geography rooms already have large sinks and additional sinks will be fitted in these rooms and in the open area by utilising existing services. There is adequate storage for Art materials and the current Geography open area would become the new open area for Art. The upper floor location would also provide better natural lighting to the Art department. Access to the pottery room would be via the stairs at the rear of E Block with a new corridor being formed to link the area at the bottom of the stairs to the existing doorway of the pottery room. The remaining section of the upper floor (Hearing Impaired, History and Modern Studies) will remain unaltered.

KEY

- ▨ Fire Doors