



April 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's been a while since I last wrote to you with an update on our '2020 Vision' Strategic Fundraising Campaign. As you see below, we are about to launch a significant fundraising activity which will take place at the end of June.

Before a brief outline of what this is about, I would like to reiterate the three major strategic dimensions of the '2020 Vision' and also to summarise what has been happening since December.

The overarching aim of the '2020 Vision' is to provide the best possible facilities and development opportunities for each and every UCC student. The three strategic priorities are firstly, to build a top class indoor sports hall which will be available everyday and all year round plus new and modern changing facilities and additional teaching/studio spaces (Ancillary Block); secondly, to create outstanding performing arts facilities; thirdly, to complete the refurbishment of our science laboratories.

As we have said previously, there is very limited government financing available for these projects and therefore our fundraising campaign is a necessity in order to deliver on the passionate desire to give our students the very best opportunities that we can both now and in the future.

Since December we have submitted a bid to Sport England for a grant of £150k and expect to hear the outcome very soon. Towards the end of the year we will submit a capital grant bid of £790k to the Department for Education for the Ancillary Block and have been holding discussions with various organisations about how to give ourselves the best chance of success. We have also been talking to local authorities about potential financial support relating to wider community use of our new facilities.

Assuming that these funding streams bear fruit, we will have a 'funding gap' of around £500k which we need to raise ourselves. It's also true to say that the more funds we raise 'under our own steam', the more likely we are to succeed with the bids above.

Our '**Big Ambitious Goal**' is to raise at least £250k of this £500k via a series of significant, College led fundraising events involving students, staff and governors together with the help and active support of all parents. We expect to raise the remaining £250k through the generosity of individual donors and benefactors.

The first of these will take place on Friday 30th June and will be a Sponsored Event (Sponsored Walk or alternative Sponsored Activity) with all students participating plus as many staff, governors and parents as possible.

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