



Feasibility Report on the Construction of the Advanced Level Classrooms, Laboratories and Auditorium

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1. Executive Summary

S. Thomas' College, Bandarawela has been exploring the possibility of building of a new block in its campus for their Advanced Level students since the year 2001.

This new facility, if implemented, would facilitate the introduction of the Advanced Level science subjects for the Tamil stream and offer new classrooms, laboratories, staff room, storerooms and a spacious toilet.

A well-equipped science laboratory is an urgent need for our school in order to compete with the State Schools, which have more and better facilities. Owing to this shortage, students from this school, have in the past, left the school to join State Schools.

The report identifies the four phases in completing the project in a period of two years. Project costs amount to rupees thirty eight million and funds are sought from the school fixed deposits.

2. Background Information

Mr. W.T. Keble founded St. Thomas' Preparatory school in 1942 with a handful of students. In 1969, the school was elevated to Junior Secondary school status from primary school status. The present science laboratory and adjoining classroom block were built as a result of the expansion of the school. In 2007, these classrooms were renovated to accommodate more students.

In 1975, the school elevated to Senior Secondary Status. Classes were conducted up to grade nine. Thirty-two students were presented for the National Certificate of General Education Examination (NCGE), which was the first public examination at Senior Secondary level.

In 1980, the General Certificate of Education (A/L) classes were started. A new building to accommodate the growing population of students was put up, named the Middle School Block. The first GCE (A/L) Examination was conducted in 1982.

Over the sixty-five year period of time, student enrollments have expanded significantly. The school population at present is approximately 1500 students. However, it is interesting to note that since 1982 (ie. over 25 years), there has been no construction of new buildings except of renovations and expansions to existing blocks.

3. Proposed A/L Building Project

The proposal for the construction of a new AL building has been in discussion among the Board of Governors and School Heads since the year 2001. Presently, the Board has approved a design by Eng. Nelson Jayatilaka in consultation with Professor Priyan Dias and drawing by Sigma Construction Technologies (Please see Annexure).

3.1 Description of the Building

The proposed building would contain a ground floor, first floor and second floor consisting of Blocks A, B and C. The building would accommodate the following:

	Block A	Block B	Block C
Ground Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditorium • 2 Toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics laboratory • Stores • A/L staff room with • Attached toilet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Classrooms • Spacious bathroom with 7 Urinals 5 Commodes 4 Wash basins • Stores
First Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Classrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio Laboratory • Stores • Supervisors room with attached toilet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Classrooms
Second Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Classrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry Laboratory • Stores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Classrooms

In summary, the building would contain sixteen classrooms, three laboratories for the Advanced Level students along with a staff room and AL Supervisors room with attached toilets. The Auditorium would be primarily be used to conduct Advanced Level examinations, society meetings and staff meetings.

3.2 Space Allocation

The entire building would have a total floor area of 20,196 square feet as described below:

	Block A	Block B	Block C
Ground Floor	33 x 92 feet = 3036 square feet	33 x 28 feet = 1419 square feet	33 x 69 feet = 2277 square feet
First Floor	33 x 92 feet = 3036 square feet	33 x 28 feet = 1419 square feet	33 x 69 feet = 2277 square feet
Second Floor	33 x 92 feet = 3036 square feet	33 x 28 feet = 1419 square feet	33 x 69 feet = 2277 square feet

3.3 Site Location

Mr. S.D.P.S Dampegama, Deputy Surveyor General of the Department of Surveying and Mapping, Diyatalawa has identified a commanding location between the present Chapel and Middle School Block for the construction of the proposed building. His professional service included the submission of a feasibility report on *gratis* along with contour drawings of the proposed site. Geotech Limited conducted the soil testing report.

3.4 Timber Needs

It has been identified that the school would be able to supply mature timber to meet the entire requirements of the building except for planks:

Requirement	Value	School to provide
Door frames 3524 square feet	250,000	Yes
Rafters 480 linear feet	40,000	Yes
Planks 1790 square feet	180,000	No

In order to replace the felled trees, the school has already purchased 500 new plants in Mahogany, Sapu and Jack.

3.5 Staffing

It is anticipated that the school would need to recruit three graduate teachers to facilitate the new Tamil stream science students. . The Board of Governors has approved the commencement of the AL science stream in 2008. The school would also require a lab assistant for the laboratories

3.6 Advantages and Disadvantages of the Proposed Project

The following factors could be considered as advantageous:

1. The school would possess a new block solely for the advanced level students. This is a facility that is currently lacking in the school and would therefore benefit the students.
2. The advanced level students would have their own laboratories. They would not have to share the lab with the upper school children.
3. The Tamil medium students would be offered a science stream. Presently, the school only offers Commerce for the Tamil medium students and therefore many students leave the school after the GCE Ordinary Level Examination.
4. The advanced level students would have an auditorium, which would be useful to conduct examinations, society meetings, A/L staff meetings etc. Presently, the AL students examinations are conducted in the corridor and becomes a difficulty during rainy days.
5. The new classrooms will permanently remove the shortage of classes presently faced by the school.
6. Staff tutoring the advanced level students would possess a new staff room of their own. Presently, A/L staff members share a small and crowded staff room along with the upper school staff.
7. The AL supervisor would have his own room within the block, thereby, giving him more control over the students and staff.
8. Students would have a large toilet facility with wash basins. Presently, the school does not have this basic facility for students.
9. The storerooms would provide adequate space to store all lab equipment belonging to the AL section and space for the Lab Assistant.
10. A room would be available for the Deputy Headmaster.
11. Present AL/Upper School laboratories could be used for the OL students and the present classrooms can ease out the congested middle and upper school classrooms.

The following factors could be considered disadvantageous:

1. The costs incurred from the building would drain school reserves.
2. At the initial stage of introducing the AL science stream for Tamil students, the tutorial salaries in the AL section may exceed the actual income due to the small number of students.
3. It is envisaged that not many Tamil medium science students would enroll in the formative years. We would be compelled to absorb students from other schools.

4. Project Schedule

It is envisaged that the project would be completed in four phases over a period of two years as described below:

		Period of completion
Phase I	Submit feasibility report for approval and call for tenders	July 2007 to August 2007
Phase II	Commence clearing / constructing ground floor	August 2007 to August 2008
Phase III	Commence construction of first floor	March 2008 to February 2009
Phase IV	Commence construction of second floor	September 2008 to August 2009

As described on the above table, it is evident that each phase would take approximately one year to complete. However, the entire project could be completed within a period of two years due to the continuation of work rather than completing each floor at each phase.

5. Funding

5.1 Anticipated Project Cost

	Phase II Ground Floor	Phase III First Floor	Phase IV Second Floor	Total
1. Site Clearing	1,142,000.00	-	-	1,142,000.00
2. Preliminary and General	470,000.00	-	-	470,000.00
3. Earth works	980,250.00	-	-	980,250.00
4. Concreting works	6,392,400.00	4,794,300.00	4,794,300.00	15,981,000.00
5. Masonry work	877,100.00	657,825.00	657,825.00	2,192,750.00
6. Carpentry & Joinery	658,927.50	768,748.75	768,748.75	2,196,425.00
7. Roofing work	-	-	2,166,450.00	2,166,450.00
8. Flooring	353,700.00	212,220.00	141,480.00	707,400.00
9. Plastering work	1,047,280.00	785,460.00	785,460.00	2,618,200.00
10. Plumbing and Drainage	399,037.50	239,422.50	159,615.00	798,075.00
11. Electrical Installations	173,000.00	129,750.00	129,750.00	432,500.00
12. Painting and decorator	324,000.00	243,000.00	243,000.00	810,000.00
Sub Total	12,817,695.00	7,830,726.25	9,846,628.75	30,495,050.00
13. Miscellaneous	3,049,505.00	2,287,128.75	2,287,128.75	7,623,762.50
Grand Total	15,867,200.00	10,117,855.00	12,133,757.50	38,118,812.50

5.2 Anticipated Cost for Fixture & Fittings

Auditorium furniture	150,000
Classrooms furniture	300,000
Laboratory furniture and equipment	200,000
Staff room furniture	30,000
Other timber requirements	190,000
Total	870,000

5.3 Source of Funds

Funds for the project would be obtained from the school fixed deposits currently being Rupees 24 million.	24,000,000
Additional money to be sourced as follows:	
New admissions for 2008 (to be collected at the end of 2007)	5,000,000
New admissions for 2009 (to be collected at the end of 2008)	5,000,000
New admissions for 2010 (to be collected at the end of 2009)	5,000,000
Total	39,000,000

6. Conclusion

It is evident that the new block would provide the Advanced Level students of S. Thomas' College, Bandarawela an opportunity to have a separate building of their own along with an auditorium and laboratories. The Tamil medium students would also benefit by having a science stream of their own. Thereby, provide equal opportunities and facilities for the Tamil medium students as well.

The new auditorium would be of immense benefit owing to the fact that AL examinations can be conducted without children having to move tables and chairs at the end of each term and be worried over the rainy season.

The new laboratories would put the school in par with some of the better-equipped National Schools and thereby assist our AL students further.

While students would benefit from this building, the Advanced Level tutorial staff would also benefit by having their own staff room instead of sharing a cramped up room. The AL Supervisor too would be relocated to the new block giving him more control over his students and subordinates.

The groundwork for the proposed AL block has been established since 2001 and the need of the hour is to put it into action.