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School looks forward to new facilities as vision gets go-ahead



■ Architects' images of the proposed new Gresham's School sixth-form and music building - plans for which have now been approved by North Norfolk District Council. Pictures: LSI ARCHITECTS

The new year will see big changes for a Holt school, after it got permission for an overhaul of its facilities.

Gresham's School has been given the go-ahead by North Norfolk District Council for a £5m sixth-form and music building, plus big improvements to four boarding houses at its Cromer Road site.

The scheme, developed by Norfolk-based LSI Architects, includes the music building, with classrooms, practice rooms, a recording studio, a 140-seat auditorium which

will be used as a sixth-form lecture theatre as well as performing space, cafeteria and social spaces for pupils. Four boarding houses will be given permanent extensions.

Headmaster Douglas Robb said: "I, together with the pupils, staff and governors, am very excited about the forthcoming developments here at Gresham's School.

"Music plays a significant role in the daily life of the pupils, so it's vital that we can provide them with first-class equipment and facilities.

"I am confident that, by building this wonderful focal point for the school, we'll be able to do just that."

He added: "Equally, it's important that we offer our boarders a place that they can call home while they are at Gresham's."

Improvement works are expected to start in March. ■ A model of the building is on display in Gresham's Senior School reception area on Cromer Road and can be viewed between 9am and 3pm, Monday to Friday.



Judge highlights dangers of court closures after witness threatened

Jane Hunt

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A judge has highlighted the potential difficulties arising out of the proposed closure of magistrates' courts after hearing that a witness was threatened by a defendant on the way to court on public transport.

Annalee Butters, 21, was on a bus

where she lives." Butters had then threatened to set fire to her flat and to "smash her face in".

Mrs Long reported the threats as soon as she arrived at the magistrates' court and the matter was reported to the police.

Butters, formerly of Newmarket, but now living in Royston, had denied witness intimidation but was found guilty in September by St

magistrates' court in Newmarket, people have to travel to other courts. There is a risk, if they haven't got a car, of them travelling on public transport at the same time and being thrown into contact with each other. Now there is talk of closing St Edmundsbury court," said the judge.

He described the threats made to Mrs Long as "ugly and frightening".

During yesterday's hearing, Mr Butcher Butters had been facing an assault on her sister Che Butters' sister did not prosecution and was taken her on the bus from Newmarket on June 16 when who was also on the bus threats being made by Butters. In addition to being