



'IN SAFE HANDS. KILMARNOCK ACADEMY WILL NOW HAVE 'ARTS AT THE HEART' AS CENTRESTAGE MOVE IN'

In response to the Press Release by Local Government Minister Kevin Stewart on Monday 12th March 2018, Centrestage is delighted to have been supported by the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Fund which will enable the regeneration of Kilmarnock Academy.

Centrestage is honoured to secure this iconic educational site, which has an abundance of historical importance and character, with huge emotional attachment across the community.

Since launching in 2006, Centrestage now operates from seven sites across Ayrshire including the current training theatre located in Kilmarnock's James Little Street. This exciting development will enable all activities to be delivered from a single location, allowing growth across all projects and offering significantly increased opportunities to work with and support new and existing local and regional organisations and partners.

Fiona McKenzie, CEO of Centrestage said "To be able to retain the Kilmarnock Academy site as an educational facility from which the whole community, regardless of age, background or experience, will be able to benefit is a true privilege and challenge and is not a decision that we have taken lightly. This significant investment from the Scottish Government will go towards reviving the landmark and as an organisation, we are utterly committed to recreating Kilmarnock



Academy as a destination for the whole community to be able to come together, to celebrate and respect its history, whilst creating new stories for the future.”

Eleanor McLaren, Chair of Centrestage Board commented, “I’m delighted with the news on the Scottish Government’s Regeneration Capital Fund award that will support with our ambitious plans for Kilmarnock Academy. We are committed and focused on ensuring that Kilmarnock Academy receives the care and attention it so rightly deserves and retains its place as a key part of Kilmarnock’s heritage and a place of learning where people will want to come and be part of for many years to come. Our vision “To build energetic and inclusive communities with the arts at the heart.” supported by our core values, will be represented across the whole site, providing a vibrant, innovative place for Kilmarnock and Ayrshire to enjoy.”

This is the start of a new chapter for Centrestage and to ensure the community is kept up to date throughout the transition, a temporary design office has been positioned at Centrestage, 11-13 James Little Street and over the coming weeks and months project plans will be shared with stakeholders to gain a true sense of the journey ahead. If you would like more information on the developments, please call Centrestage on 01563 551505

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For further information related to this PR, contact Frank Gormanley.

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