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# Blaze school head says 'thank you'

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**PLANS** to replace the science block at Downs School, Compton, destroyed by a mystery fire a month ago are already being dicussed by Berkshire County Council officials.

The headmaster, Mr. Philip Bowden, said on Tuesday that preliminary discussions had started on a permanent replacement for the three science labs and

three maths rooms destroyed. The county council hopes to begin work on re-building the block "as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, six temporary classrooms are almost ready for use at the school. They were on site within days of the fire which gutted the £250,000 science block on a Friday night a month ago. Services such as water and power are being connected and fitting out the classrooms will begin shortly. They should be in use by the end of the month.

Mr. Bowden was full of praise for the way county council officials and workmen had worked feverishly to help the school in its time of trouble. He said the workmen had done a "fantastic" job to get the temporary classrooms erected so quickly.

Until these classrooms are ready pupils will continue to use every available corner of the school for lessons. Other schools have made classrooms available for some lessons.

The replacement of equipment destroyed in the blaze is going well. The school's parent association has raised £300 for urgently-needed books and equipment and longer term projects will be considered if money is available.