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Featherstone High School

Headteacher: Mr N. Walters

Founding Member of the Grand Union MAT



10th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in education settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result, areas with RAAC will be vacated until safety mitigations are put in place.

I am writing to inform you that a survey has recently identified that RAAC panels were used in the construction of some of the buildings at Featherstone High School. As a result, I am writing to inform you that we have taken the decision to vacate the art block and two of our science classrooms.

We had previously been cleared for RAAC but there was a query on one of the first surveys that did not fully satisfy the structural engineer. The structural engineer came back to have another look and found RAAC on the second visit.

The school is open for all students but, as a preventative measure, we will be taking these areas out of use while we put safety measures in place - we will always prioritise the safety of students and our staff.

We have put plans in place to ensure that the impact on students is kept to an absolute minimum. All lessons in all subjects will continue but art lessons will not take place in the art block. We have put short term measures in place until half term and we will recreate the art classrooms after half term in a different part of the school.

The DfE will be supporting us throughout and will also be assisting with longer-term remediation measures so that we can bring all students back into the art block once we are fully confident it is safe to do so. I will endeavour to keep you informed about updates every step of the way.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Mr N. Walters
Headteacher