



3rd February 2017

Dear Parents

Hylands School Asbestos Communication

On 27th January 2017 we were made aware of the presence of asbestos residue above the suspended ceiling in specific rooms within the tower block. This was discovered as part of the routine asbestos management programme that all schools of our age are expected to carry out. All prior surveys showed these areas to be clear.

The survey showed the presence of asbestos in the following areas: classrooms 3, 4 and the office areas surrounding them. These areas were immediately sealed and closed to both staff and pupils.

The report of the 27th deemed safe the hallways and areas surrounding the affected classrooms. Further air tests conducted on 30th January confirmed this.

The sealed areas were then subject to further intrusive investigations at the first available time. These have revealed that while the air tests are showing particles within the advisory legal limits, there is residue of asbestos attached to the joists above the suspended ceilings on the ground floor of the tower block.

The results of these investigations came to the school at 9am this morning, 3rd February. It was therefore decided that in order to eliminate any risk, all rooms which are of the same fabric as the contaminated classrooms were also closed and sealed. Therefore this has led to closures of the classrooms on the first floor of the tower block as of period 2 today.

General Guidance: "Asbestos is only dangerous when disturbed. If it is safely managed and contained, it doesn't present a health hazard. Not all asbestos materials present the same risk. The measures that need to be taken for controlling the risks from materials such as pipe insulation are different from those needed in relation to asbestos cement. We are taking all the necessary advice to ensure that all unnecessary risks are eliminated; The Asbestos Management Policy ensures that the School follow proper procedure to eliminate any unnecessary risks; The School continue to work with The Health and Safety Executive and TKAT Health & Safety representatives to ensure that all necessary precaution is and will be undertaken to safeguard the safety of all staff, pupils, and visitors to our School".

All rooms will remain closed and sealed until either a full cleanse has been completed or the room is deemed absent from asbestos. We will also be issuing new timetables to staff and students on Monday morning with room changes completed.

If any parents have any concerns or worries, please contact Mr Everitt, Site Manager (severitt@hylands-tkat.org) in the first instance and he will be happy to help. I also will be available to answer any questions or queries if he is not contactable (tthorpe@hylands-tkat.org).

Yours sincerely

Mr T Thorpe
Headteacher