

10 June 2022

Telephone: 01536 720300

Fax: 01536 720303

Principal: Ms Siobhan Heame

Dear Parents and Carers

Summer Estates Improvement Projects: Asbestos Removal Phase 2

Following the successful completion of Phase 1 of the project to refurbish our Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages Learning Centre last summer, this summer we are delighted to be able to confirm that we will be proceeding with Phase 2. This will see the whole of the first floor being upgraded, with a full repaint, new lighting, new furniture and new flooring. This really will make a significant positive difference to the learning environment for our students.

In addition to this, we plan to fully refurbish the Maths Learning Centre over the summer as well. Those of you who have visited the College site will also be pleased to hear that we are having the whole car park resurfaced!

The reason for writing to you is not only to inform you about these improvements, but also to make you aware that as part of Phase 2 of the Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages Learning Centre refurbishment, as with Phase 1, we will be undertaking the removal of asbestos from this first floor. The work will commence from Monday 4 July, the final two weeks of the academic year, so that it can be completed in preparation for the new academic year.

As we know that the mention of asbestos can cause concern, we wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you that a full risk assessment is in place and this work is being carried out in a planned and controlled way.

As with most schools built in the 1970's, the original buildings at the College were built using asbestos within its structures to create fire barriers between roofs, ceiling voids, floors and stairwells etc. The areas of asbestos at the College have remained in a good and safe condition but their presence has historically restricted what can be done to modernise and improve areas. So as part of the planned refurbishment, it makes sense to include the removal of asbestos in the areas that we upgrade.

This work will be managed by the same approved firm of architects who managed Phase 1 and they have specialist knowledge of older school buildings. They have access to the relevant accredited contractors with experience dealing with buildings such as ours. The removal work is being carried out by specialised asbestos removal contractors and closely managed by our architects to ensure they follow all Health and Safety Executive (HSE) legislation, guidance and protocols.

In order to carry this out in a safe and proper manner, the first floor of the main block will be closed and lessons will be moved to a different location. The whole area will be sealed off to prevent access to all but the qualified contractors. Airtight chambers will be constructed to seal the whole work area with multi-chamber air locks. Full air monitoring will be in place to ensure everything is kept safe. In addition to this, no asbestos will be removed from the work area during the school day.

As the work reaches completion, all areas will be thoroughly cleaned and then checked by independent asbestos testers to ensure they are safe before they are handed over to the architects for the next stage of the work.

We very much look forward to providing our students with these improved learning centres in September.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the College: mail@latimer.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Ms. S. Hearne

Ms S Hearne
Principal