

11 June 2021

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Principal: Ms Siobhan Heame

Dear Parents and Carers

Summer Estates Improvement Projects: Asbestos Removal

We have recently been fortunate to secure funding from Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), as it was previously known, to undertake projects to significantly improve some areas of the College estate. We are excited about being able to provide our students with enhanced learning experiences as a result of this.

Over the next 12 weeks this will see the roof on our Art and Design Learning Centre being replaced, as well as an upgrade of large parts of our main block, including classrooms and our Learning Resource Centre (LRC), that will see replacement windows, lighting and flooring being installed along with a programme of redecoration.

The reason for writing to you is not only to inform you about these improvements, but to make you aware that as part of these projects, we will be undertaking the removal of asbestos from some parts of the College, with work that will commence from Monday 28 June, 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 Latimer Arts College was 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 these planned works it makes sense to include the removal of asbestos in the areas that we upgrade.

This work will be managed by an NCC approved firm of architects with 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 top floor of the main block will be closed and Year 9 students' lessons have been moved to a different location. The whole area will be sealed off to prevent access to all but the qualified contractors. Air tight 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. Heame

Ms S Hearne
Principal