

5<sup>th</sup> October 2023



**Vyners School**  
Striving for Excellence

Dear parents and carers

**Re: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)**

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the issues that we have experienced at the school in relation to suspected RAAC in the fabric of some of our older buildings.

I am pleased to report that surveyors from the Department of Education (DfE) have visited the school and have undertaken a thorough inspection of all of the buildings on site, including those where RAAC was suspected. On completion of the inspection, the surveyors were required to submit a report detailing their findings to the DfE within four working days. At this point in time, we are unsure of when this report will be shared with the school and how we will be expected to proceed once it is published. However, we are expecting that there will be a recommendation for a further inspection to examine areas that were inaccessible to the surveyors during their most recent inspection. This was due to the nature of the specific building design in some areas. This means that the inspection in some parts of the older building will be categorised as inconclusive.

The most positive news was that the surveyors were able to orally confirm that there is no RAAC present above the main school hall and canteen area. This area was accessed fully and more intrusive testing found that, whilst the materials used in the roof construction had some characteristics of RAAC, they were in fact a different substance that combines wood fibres bonded with concrete. We have been assured by the DfE appointed surveyors that this product is safe to use and does not pose the risks of failure that have been seen in some RAAC products.

Given this assurance provided by the DfE appointed surveyors, we have decided to reopen the school hall and canteen seating area as from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023. All school activities that normally take place in these areas will resume from this date. This will include the Year 10 parents' information evening on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and the Year 11 parents' information evening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The second floor of the older building will remain closed at least until we have received the report from the DfE. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to resume teaching on the second floor of the older building shortly after the half term break.

I would again like to thank parents, students and staff for their patience and understanding throughout this process. I will ensure that I provide an update to all stakeholders once we have received the DfE report and have greater clarity about our next steps.

Yours sincerely

**Gary Mullings**  
**Headteacher**

**Vyners School**  
Warren Road, Ickenham,  
Middlesex, UB10 8AB  
Tel **01895 234342**

office@vynersschool.org.uk  
[www.vynersschool.org.uk](http://www.vynersschool.org.uk)

**Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)**  
Headteacher

