



1 September 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I hope you have had a great summer. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone next week.

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

I am writing to inform you that a DfE-commissioned survey recently identified that RAAC panels were used in the construction of the college buildings. As a result, we have taken the temporary decision to vacate the kitchen and library at Carmel College until further investigations have taken place.

We appreciate the concern this may raise, but we will always prioritise the safety of your children and our staff.

We are working to ensure that the impact on pupils is kept to an absolute minimum. College will remain open for everyone however there will be a limited break and lunch menu and some disruption to classrooms. For pupils from yr 7 -11 we would appreciate if your child could bring a packed lunch for the first week. Food will be available for any child in receipt of free school meals.

DfE will be supporting us throughout and will also be assisting with longer-term remediation measures so that the affected areas can be returned to use once we are fully confident it is safe to do so. I appreciate that the timing of this decision, shortly before the start of the autumn term, is far from ideal. This decision has been taken out of our hands and is to ensure pupil safety and we will be doing all we can to ensure that the impact on pupils is kept to a minimum.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter. We will keep you informed of any changes as they arise.

Your sincerely

M Kane
Principal