



August 2023

Dear Parents, Carers & Students

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You may have seen media coverage regarding RAAC and its use in educational settings over the past few days. I **wanted to inform you that we are not affected**. Longbenton High School was completely rebuilt and opened to students in September 2016; there is no RAAC in any part of the building.

RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; schools, hospitals and various other public buildings from the 1950s to the mid-1990s were built using this material. As it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) emailed schools yesterday (August 31st) with updated guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC and instructing those with RAAC or suspected RAAC to take a more precautionary approach, which in some cases is leading to disruption.

To reiterate: our school does not contain RAAC and the new term will start as normal.

I hope that this offers reassurance and look forward to welcoming your child/ren back to school next week.

Yours faithfully

Kelly Holbrook
Headteacher