



4 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As the start of term gets underway our new year 7 students have had a fantastic start and are already finding their feet. Year 11 returned ready to tackle their year with ambition and positivity, knowing they have a big team around them supporting them every step of the way in this important year.

We are looking forward to the rest of the school (with the exception of year 12 who start on Wednesday), joining us tomorrow and for a great year ahead.

## RAAC Update

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.

The Department for Education (DfE) has 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 within schools are being vacated.

I wanted to inform you that we are **not** one of the identified schools and are not known to have RAAC in any of our buildings after a review of records by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and therefore will continue to function as normal.

I received the statement below from WSCC confirming the following:

"West Sussex County Council is aware of the RAAC issue and has already completed a review of records for WSCC maintained schools. No WSCC maintained schools have been identified from records as containing any indicating RAAC construction and to provide added confidence, physical inspections of all maintained school blocks constructed between 1930-2000 is being commissioned."

We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub via this link [article on the Education Hub](#).

I hope that this offers reassurance.

Yours sincerely

Ms Jo Meloni  
Headteacher

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