

4th September 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

IMPORTANT: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

Dear Parents and Carers

RAAC and Start of Term Update at Farlingaye High School

Further to my message on Friday, things have progressed very quickly and there have been some developments which I am cautiously optimistic about.


This morning, a structural engineer confirmed the presence of RAAC in a variety of areas at the school. We therefore cannot use these spaces until remedial and mitigating safety measures are put in place. It is a significant amount of teaching space that is now out of action and affects not only classrooms but other school spaces and facilities. Therefore, we have begun the challenging process of re-rooming the affected classrooms into other spaces across the school as a short-term measure. At the same time as this, we have had some really positive conversations with a local company who can provide temporary buildings for us to use whilst the necessary long-term work is undertaken to make the school safe. We have managed to secure a range of classroom spaces, toilet facilities and changing rooms, and these should start arriving on Friday of this week. It will take a little time, though, for these spaces to be made operational, and to fully equip them with everything required to facilitate teaching. Therefore, we will have to be creative in moving classes affected by RAAC to other areas of the school for approximately two to four weeks whilst new buildings are assembled. There are also some other immediate remedial actions needed across the site in order to make it safe for the return of students which are already underway.

As a result of the action being taken, there will unfortunately, be a slight delay to the start of term:

Wednesday 6th September: School closed to students
Thursday 7th September: Years 7 and 12 only
Friday 8th September: Years 7, 11, 12, 13 only

We are working on the assumption that we should be in a position to facilitate the return of all students by Monday 11th September. As I am sure you can appreciate, this is a very 'live' situation and could change as the week progresses. I will, of course, keep you informed.

We want all our students in Farlingaye as soon as is possible, but given the challenging circumstances that this scenario has presented, we need a little extra time to ensure that we can facilitate the safe return of all to the site. For year groups that will be returning to school later than anticipated, all subject areas will be setting work via TEAMS for students to complete. This will be a stand-alone task that is accessible for all. For those students in receipt of Free School Meals, a packed lunch will be available from the school to collect, and can be ordered via an email to Mr Moran, who can also address any queries regarding these (cmoran@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk).



I fully appreciate that this is far from ideal and please be assured that I didn't want my first two letters to families to be regarding concrete! Hopefully, we can quickly take the necessary steps so all students can be back in school and we can get back to focusing on the relevant and important issues that a new academic year brings.

If you wish to discuss this, or any other matter, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school.

Best wishes

Mr P Smith
Headteacher