



Monday 8th January 2024

Dear parents/carers,

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate through this challenging time together. As you are aware, a fire occurred in the school on the evening of Thursday, 4th January. The incident primarily impacted one corridor, resulting in significant damage, while other areas of the school incurred smoke and water damage.

Incident update

The fire department has concluded its investigation. They have informed us that the school must undergo thorough checks by qualified professionals to assess the safety for pupils' return. Certain sections of the building remain unaffected and therefore we are hopeful for a partial reopening in the near future. Our priority is to ensure the safety of everyone involved. We must confirm that all essential services, including gas and electricity, can be reinstated before finalising any reopening plans.

Ongoing assessments and checks are currently in progress, but it is unlikely that they will be completed by the end of this week. Consequently, we regret to inform you that we are unable to provide a confirmed date for the school's reopening at this time. We understand the challenges this situation presents, and we apologise for any inconvenience caused. Your child's education is our priority and we are actively working to identify possible solutions while maintaining the highest standards of safety.

Remote learning

In light of these updates, we have initially decided to transition to online learning for all pupils for the remainder of this week. As the situation evolves, and if parts of the building become available, we will prioritise face-to-face teaching for Year 11. Any changes will be communicated to you at the earliest opportunity.

Remote learning will be facilitated through Google Classroom. At the beginning of each day your child will be assigned work for each of their timetabled lessons. We expect this work to be completed on the same day it is assigned.

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DEAN TRUST Ardwick

Chief Executive: Mr Tarun Kapur CBE

Head of School: Mr Steven Worthington BA (Hons) MSc NPQH

Tomorrow morning pupils should logon to their Form Google Classroom. Here, they will find a pre-recorded briefing detailing the current situation and outlining the process for accessing their remote learning. Parents can access the same briefing on the school website.

To ensure smooth coordination, we have created a Google Form register for parents. It is imperative that you complete this form to confirm your child's ability to access their remote learning. You will receive this via email through MCAS. If you have more than one child enrolled at our school, kindly fill out a separate form for each child.

Free School Meals

For eligible pupils entitled to free school meals, we have arranged supermarket vouchers equivalent to six days' worth of school meals. These vouchers will be dispatched to parents and carers through email within the next 24 hours. In cases where we do not have access to an email address, we will ensure the delivery of the vouchers directly to parents and carers as soon as possible.

School to home communication

As the situation unfolds, our commitment is to keep you well-informed. In addition to daily messages through the My Child At School App, we have established a dedicated section on the school website. This section will house all home-school communications and provide comprehensive details regarding our remote learning arrangements.

We will continue to keep you informed of any developments and appreciate your continued support during this time. Our dedicated team is committed to ensuring a smooth and safe return for our students as soon as it is feasible.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation,

Mr S. Worthington
Head of School

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