

17th January 2024

Dear students and parents

I'm sure you will be aware that nationwide there have been a large number of schools and colleges that have identified Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in their buildings following the government's requirement to undertake surveys. At Collyer's we undertook our survey last summer and received our report that identified no evidence of RAAC in September 2023. However an entirely different survey that forms part of our annual maintenance programme has now, as part of its other work, uncovered a small area in one building that they thought warranted further investigation. We have therefore asked an expert to follow up with a detailed study and have now received confirmation that there is RAAC in a limited area.

The safety of all our community is of paramount importance and so we have immediately acted to move all activity from the classrooms affected to alternative spaces. This is in line with the [DfE's guidance for education settings](#). Fortunately the area affected is very limited and contained within one part of the Duckering building that has two classrooms. We will write separately to any students affected and their parents to explain the new temporary arrangements. Due to significant investment in our estate and the opening of a brand-new building last September we have a comfortable amount of spare accommodation to house the subjects. We have reported the identification of RAAC to the DfE following their guidance and we will receive expert advice from their case worker as to whether the RAAC does indeed present a risk and if so what action is needed to address this.

I am grateful to those students and staff affected for their flexibility in the short term as we have temporary arrangements in place and of course we will work very carefully to minimise any disruption, both to the delivery of teaching but also to any assessments. We are hopeful that we have a positive outcome to further investigations and that we are able to return to that part of the building by Easter. I will of course provide updates as and when I am able and if any of our community have any questions then please send these via admin@collyers.ac.uk and the most appropriate member of staff will reply as soon as they are able.

Kind regards

Dan Lodge
Principal