

# Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School

## Community notification

30 June 2021

### Update to temporary closure of Block C

On Thursday 24 June 2021, we advised that Block C was closed as additional testing continued following planned maintenance work that took place after school hours on Wednesday 23 June. The planned maintenance work involved the removal of known bonded asbestos containing material from under the floor of Block C. During these works additional asbestos material that was not previously known was identified and the contractor appropriately remediated the area.

As is required under safe work practices, the contractor installed air monitoring inside Block C while the work was being conducted. The initial results from the air monitoring indicated a high fibre count during the works, so the Department notified SafeWork NSW and access to Block C continued to be prevented.

The air monitoring data was sent to an independent laboratory to assess the results, while precautionary and additional air monitoring was undertaken on Thursday, which returned results below the detectable limit of 0.01 fibre/ml. This means the air inside Block C is consistent with ambient air and poses no risk.

The assessment of the original air monitoring recorded during the work under Block C, has confirmed the results exceeded the acceptable asbestos fibre limits. This exceedance occurred during the asbestos removal work and in a controlled environment meaning the health and safety of students, staff and workers were not put at risk at any stage during the planned work.

However over the coming days, as an added precaution, continuous air monitoring in and directly outside Block C will remain in place.

Additional work will continue during the school holidays to ensure the building is safe for students and staff to occupy when school resumes. This will involve a full environmental clean of the rooms and their contents. Following this work, an independent occupational hygienist will provide a clearance certificate.

We will only reopen the building to students and staff once a clearance certificate is received. The community will be notified once this is obtained.

Asbestos removal works at NSW schools are always done outside of school hours. All asbestos related work is done in accordance with the Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan and SafeWork NSW regulations and completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors, and monitored by occupational hygienists.

The health, safety and well-being of the school and neighbouring community is our highest priority.

Thank you for your understanding.

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#### If you have any questions please contact:

School Infrastructure NSW  
Email: [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone: 1300 482 651  
[www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)