

Canterbury Public School

Works notification | 26 March 2024

Dear staff and parents/carers,

A Block update

On Tuesday 19 March 2024, we informed you that during work to install new air-conditioning units at Canterbury Public School, an electrical contractor damaged the corridor ceiling of A Block.

A Block, which houses 6 classrooms and the library, was immediately cordoned off and testing was undertaken by an independent hygienist, which confirmed the material contained asbestos.

Remediation works began immediately. During these works, it was discovered that contractors installing air-conditioning units cut holes into the ceiling and floor of other rooms in A Block. We are undertaking a review of this incident as part of our continuous improvement program.

As a result, the independent hygienist was engaged once again to advise of a comprehensive remediation action plan for A Block. Further testing of A Block confirmed there was asbestos in the ceiling and ceiling void. A Block remains cordoned off.

We will remediate the building over the next few weeks. It is estimated the building will be reopened in early Term 2 once a clearance certificate is issued.

Since 18 March, classes which normally take place in A Block, have used flexible learning spaces and the Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) hub for teaching and learning. This arrangement will continue until the end of Term 1 2024.

C Block update

To protect the health and safety of our students and staff, we cordoned off C Block for testing on Tuesday 26 March as similar air-conditioning installation took place in that building recently. C Block houses classrooms and the administration area.

Swab- and air testing found no asbestos in the C Block classrooms where the air-conditioning installation occurred. Trace amounts were detected in the roof void, however air monitoring has returned results below the minimum detectable limit, which means it is consistent with acceptable levels in ambient air as per SafeWork NSW guidelines.

These results represent a consistent finding that there is no detectable level of asbestos fibres in C Block. Asbestos fibres pose a risk to health if airborne. In this case the evidence and advice from our hygienist is that there is no airborne asbestos in this area.

As an added precaution, any roof openings in C Block were sealed and thorough cleaning of the classrooms were completed Tuesday 26 March, and the ceiling void will be thoroughly cleaned during the school holidays.

Teaching and learning occurred in outdoor spaces on Tuesday, 26 March as these precautionary measures took place.

Once the clearance certificate is received from the independent hygienist, C Block will be reopened for learning – with the exception of the maths storeroom which will need to be cleaned and cleared. There will be restricted access to the maths storeroom until this is completed.

Work will be done in accordance with work, health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan.

All work will be completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

Our highest priority is the health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community. We will keep the community updated.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

