

Merrylands High School

Works notification | 27 February 2025

Dear staff, parents, carers and neighbours,

We are building a new retaining wall adjacent to Building C at Merrylands High School.

This work involves replacing the existing wall and asphalt pathway.

The area is currently out of bounds to students and staff with temporary construction fencing in place since works began in early February 2025. Students and staff can access the demountable buildings via the north-east side of Building C.

Removal of hazardous material

During demolition of the existing wall on Monday 17 February 2025, small fragments suspected of containing asbestos were found in the footings.

Work immediately stopped. We engaged an independent hygienist to collect the fragments for testing. Test results confirmed the fragments contained bonded asbestos.

This area was not listed on the school's asbestos register.

On recommendation of the hygienist, we will be conducting tests in the area for evidence of further asbestos. Depending on the results, the hygienist will advise on how to proceed with remediation before works continue.

Once testing is completed, the school's asbestos register will be updated to reflect the new information.

All air monitoring to date across the site has returned results below the minimum detectable limit, which means it is consistent with acceptable levels in ambient air (i.e. <0.01 fibres/mL) as per SafeWork NSW guidelines.

All work with asbestos is completed in accordance with work health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. Safety measures are in place while work is being done. All work is completed by licensed asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists.

Construction hours

Works on the retaining wall began in February 2025 and is currently scheduled to finish in May 2025 with most of the work taking place during the Autumn School Holidays.

Work hours are between 7 am and 6 pm Monday to Friday, and 8 am and 1 pm on Saturday in accordance with NSW Environment Protection Authority construction times.

Contractors and vehicles will access the school via the main vehicle access gate on Sherwood Road. All work vehicles will park onsite in the school car park.



Please be aware there will be an increase in noise during demolition works which may occur during school hours. We will make every effort to minimise noise where possible.

If you have any questions about this work, please contact the NSW Department of Education on the details below.

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

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.