Merrylands High School
Works notification | 4 March 2024

Dear staff, parents and carers,

On 20 February, during recent planned work to install a lift at Merrylands High School, building materials suspected to contain asbestos were found in the soil beneath a concrete slab where buildings C and D merge. This is an area that is out of bounds for students and not accessed by them.

Work stopped immediately and the slab was covered with plastic. As an extra precautionary measure, the area was fenced off and the windows adjacent to the area have been screwed shut.

On 21 February, we engaged an independent occupational hygienist to inspect the site, remove the building material and arrange for it to be tested. Testing has confirmed the fragments contain bonded asbestos which means it is attached to other materials such as cement or vinyl and cannot be crumbled by light pressure.

NSW Health explains that if bonded asbestos is mixed with cement or other hard bonding materials, and in good condition, it is likely to be low risk.

On Saturday 9 March and Sunday 10 March, remediation work will take place to remove the concrete rubble and soil in the works area, and the concrete slab will be replaced. An independent occupational hygienist will then inspect the area to confirm that the area is clear and provide a clearance certificate.

The area will continue to remain out of bounds until work is completed installing the lift.

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 occupational hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

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

If you have any questions about this work, please contact the department on the details below.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

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