

Castle Hill High School

Works notification | 1 March 2024

Dear staff and parents/carers,

This notification is to inform you of recent fragments found on the grounds at Castle Hill High School as well as maintenance work for the gas heater in the gymnasium.

Fragments of asbestos-containing material found

After periods of heavy rain, we ensure all schools with site-specific asbestos management plans are thoroughly inspected by an independent occupational hygienist.

During a recent routine inspection, one small fragment of suspected asbestos-containing material was found on the ground near the school hall and another in vegetation near the school perimeter fencing closest to the sports courts.

The fragments were removed by the hygienist and returned positive results for asbestos-containing material. The fragments contained bonded asbestos and were found in areas not listed on the school's site-specific asbestos management plan. 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.

The independent hygienist completed the inspection of the school and will update the site-specific management plan. A repeat inspection will be carried out in three months and following periods of heavy rain.

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 and regulations.

Damaged gas heater

A gas line to a heater in the gymnasium has been damaged, likely by a bouncing basketball, and will be urgently repaired. The flow of gas to this area has been stopped.

The repair work is scheduled to take place on Friday, 1 March 2024. The gymnasium will be cordoned off and remain out of bounds while this work takes place.

The work involves replacing the gas hoses to every heater in the gymnasium with copper lines and cages, to ensure they cannot be damaged again. All work will be completed by qualified and licensed gas repair professionals.

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

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

