

NSW Department of Education
Swansea High School
Works notification | 29 May 2024



Dear parents/carers,

On 6 May 2024, a staff member identified mould in 2 office rooms in the Administration Building (Building A) at Swansea High School. These rooms were immediately isolated from students and staff. Administration staff working in these rooms were temporarily relocated to the reception foyer and movement area while testing and recommendations for remediation were developed by the independent hygienist.

In the meantime, the school's reception area has relocated to AR0028 (staff storeroom) and AR0029 (staff study room). Signage has been placed in the carpark and entry points to direct students and visitors. We appreciate your support and understanding.

A local contractor attended on the same day to inspect the roof and between 7 – 22 May 2024 the contractor completed necessary repairs and cleared a blocked downpipe.

Between 7 – 8 May 2024 inspections, testing and air monitoring were undertaken by the independent hygienist. On 15 May 2024, the department received remediation advice from the hygienist and a specialist cleaning contractor was engaged on 17 May to begin remediation work starting on the 22 May 2024.

On Wednesday 22 May 2024, a specialist cleaning contractor began an environmental clean of the areas where the mould was detected. To manage the risk of mould reoccurrence mould prevention work including roof repairs, managing porous surfaces, window repairs and increasing ventilation are currently underway.

During this work, vinyl tiles known to contain bonded asbestos as per the school's asbestos register, were found under some office shelving. Bonded asbestos means it is attached to other materials such as tiles or cement 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.

Work to remove the material took place outside of school hours on Tuesday 21 May 2024. This was supervised by the independent hygienist with additional safety measures and air monitoring in place before the work started.

All work was done in accordance with work, health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. All work was completed by licensed and

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accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

Other works to complete the remediation such as painting and minor carpentry work are still in progress.

The independent hygienist will return to inspect the Administration Building to confirm it has been fully remediated, and a clearance certificate will be issued before the areas are reopened.

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.