

Newcastle High School

Works notification | 18 March 2024

Dear staff and parents/carers,

On 4 March 2024, a section of ceiling was damaged in the walkway of the top floor of Building A at Newcastle High School. The ceiling in this area is known to contain asbestos as per the school's asbestos register.

The area was immediately cordoned off from staff and students. A hygienist attended to conduct an initial assessment of the area and air monitoring was installed.

Air monitoring to date 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.

No students or staff were in the walkway at the time of the damage occurring, however as ceiling material had initially fallen to the ground in this area, registered contractors also attended on 4 March 2024 to perform an environmental clean and secure the damaged ceiling.

Works to permanently repair the ceiling took place on Saturday 16 March and Sunday 17 March 2024.

All work involving asbestos containing materials took place outside of school hours, with additional safety measures and monitoring in place. 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 accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

The school has received a clearance certificate from an independent hygienist and the hallway has been reopened for use.

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

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

