

Merewether High School

Works notification | 5 March 2026

Dear staff, parents and carers,

Proactive maintenance over the holidays

During the summer school holidays, as part of our proactive maintenance schedule, we inspected areas of Merewether High School known to have asbestos-containing materials, as listed on the School Asbestos Management Plan (SAMP). The inspections revealed minor gaps in the ceiling and external eave cavities in several classrooms in Building K.

The ceiling and eave cavities in this building contain material identified as friable asbestos, meaning it can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure.

An independent hygienist was engaged to inspect the rooms and conduct air monitoring.

Air monitoring 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.

Work to seal the ceiling gaps in the classrooms took place between Thursday 22 and Saturday 24 January 2026.

Once the internal work was finished, the classrooms were re-inspected by the independent hygienist to confirm they were fully remediated and clearance was issued for the classrooms to be used as normal from Day 1, Term 1 2026.

As a precautionary measure, air monitoring was again conducted while additional work to seal gaps in the external eaves was done on Saturday 7 February 2026. Air monitoring results consistently returned results below the minimum detectable limit.

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 asbestos contractors.

Air conditioning unit electrical fire

On Wednesday 4 February 2026, a small electrical fire ignited from the air conditioning unit in the Building K staff common room.

As a precaution, the school was evacuated safely and efficiently as per their drill. Emergency Services attended the site and managed the fire promptly.

The NSW fire brigade provided clearance for school to return and normal operations resumed by 11:30 am. No students or staff experienced were affected by the fire or smoke.

All damages due to the electrical fire have been repaired. The electrical wiring has been inspected and replaced with a new unit.

The health, safety and wellbeing of all members of our school and the local community are our highest priorities.

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



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