



Exmouth Community College

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5 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find a few updates prior to the start of term tomorrow. These include information on the following, so do please read to the end of this letter:

- Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)
- Governors' decision to apply to join Education South West Multi-Academy Trust
- Warm weather at the start of term
- Early closure – Thursday 19th October

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You will probably be aware of the situation involving Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in a number of school settings across the country.

We have previously responded to the Department for Education's (DfE) requests for assessing areas of potential RAAC. An update to government guidance late last week has led us to carry out a review and a survey of a small number of areas that had not previously been identified as 'at risk'. This has confirmed the presence of RAAC in one small part of the Gipsy Lane site, which is an extension to an older building and affects four Science Laboratories.

In line with the updated guidance, we have informed the DfE and closed this area as a precaution whilst further assessment and actions take place. Whilst RAAC is present, our surveyor is content that the building is showing no signs of failure, and therefore whilst we will not use the space there is no immediate danger. We are making the necessary changes to student timetables to minimise the impact on learning for students.

We understand that this may cause some concern, but we would like to reassure you that we have carried out all necessary risk assessments and would not open any part of the school site unless it was safe to do so.

Governors' decision to apply to join 'Education South West' Multi-Academy Trust

On Monday evening the Governing Board took a decision to request to join the Education South West (ESW) Multi-Academy Trust (www.educationsouthwest.org.uk).

ECC has been working in close partnership with Education South West for some time and over recent months we have been carrying out a comprehensive review of the possibility of joining as

a full member. The Governors are confident that joining ESW would bring considerable benefit to the College and be in the best interests of our young people and community in the long-term.

The Governing Board's decision now triggers a full consultation period with the community. We will give parents and carers the opportunity to hear more about what this would mean for ECC and to hear your views and will communicate more about this in coming weeks.

The final decision is subject to the outcomes of this consultation and approval from the Department for Education. If granted, it is likely that we would formally become a member of ESW in the early part of 2024.

I am delighted by the prospect of joining a Multi-Academy Trust with an ethos that aligns closely with that of ECC, has the development of young people at its very core and will be able to support the College in the next chapter of its journey.

Warm weather at the start of term

Due to the unseasonably warm weather forecast for the start of term, students will not be required to wear jumpers to school this week. All other expectations will be as usual (including the need for shirts to be tucked in); please do read David Turner's letter from last week that covers this in more detail.

We expect to return to normal uniform expectations from Monday, but will update you if there is any change to this.

Early closure – Thursday 19th October

The College will close at 1pm on Thursday 19th October (before the non-pupil day on Friday 20th October). This will enable the move into the new Maths block, a number of other knock-on moves and enable time to support strategic planning as part of the school's development. We wanted to give you notice of this as early as possible so that you can make any necessary arrangements.

Wishing all students and families a really positive start to the new academic year. I look forward to meeting them all tomorrow.

Yours sincerely



Tom Inman
Headteacher