

1 March 2023

Dear Staff, Students, Parents and Carers,

As you are likely to already know, unfortunately there was a fire in college on 1 March in one of the Visual Arts classrooms. This fire was completely accidental. The evacuation went very smoothly, nobody was harmed, and the emergency services quickly dealt with the problem.

I want to start by offering my thanks to students and staff for the way in which they handled the situation this morning. The evacuation was quick, calm, and professional. Students conducted themselves in an exemplary way and I know how cold it must have been waiting for so long outside. It was obviously important for us to only return to the building once the fire officers advised that it was safe and appropriate to return.

For students that missed the final part of a mock exam this morning, your teachers will arrange for you to have the remaining time to complete the paper as soon as possible in a lesson. All other mock exams will continue as planned in the sports hall.

Visual arts lessons will not take place for the remainder of this week. We will update visual arts students as quickly as we can about arrangements for lessons. Thanks very much for your patience as we put appropriate plans in place.

Students that had lessons in the visual arts corridor when the evacuation took place may have found that some of their belongings smell of smoke. The fire officers have advised that you wash these items, where possible, to help remove the smell. It is a good idea to wash clothing items that smell of smoke separately from other clothing items.

The fire officers also advised that any students in the area at the time who experience a cough, tight chest, or any respiratory problems should see their GP for medical advice. We appreciate that this is unlikely, but it is best to take a cautious approach, particularly if you have any underlying medical conditions.

Thank you once again for the way in which you all responded this morning.

Yours sincerely,



**Brendon Fletcher**  
**Principal**