



Wednesday 14th June 2023

Dear parents and carers,

When we wrote to you on 25th May, we shared that we had received news from the Department for Education that there were issues regarding the Academy's building requiring further tests. As a result, the Department for Education, who manage the building's contract, have been exploring contingency options whilst these tests are underway.

**In the attached letter you will find a statement from the Department for Education. This outlines the current situation for temporary accommodation for Matford Brook Academy Year 7 pupils.**

As a Trust, looking to do whatever we can to find a solution in these circumstances, we have put forward for consideration space at one of our existing schools, St Luke's, to accommodate Matford Brook Academy Year 7 pupils. We are waiting to hear if the works required to make this a separate school on the existing site can be completed. We hope that it will be, especially as this would still provide access to specialist teaching spaces and resources for the period required for our pupils. In the meantime, we are continuing to work towards our opening to Year 7 pupils.

A number of temporary accommodation options have been explored extensively by the Department for Education with our support. This has included temporary modular classrooms on a nearby site or repurposing a building as temporary accommodation. However, these have not been deemed viable.

We do not yet know the outcomes of the test results being conducted on the school building nor a revised programme for the building's completion. We hope that the temporary accommodation will be for as short a period as possible and we will soon be able to move onto our permanent site with our first cohort of pupils.

As you will read in their letter, the Department for Education has made the decision that Matford Brook Academy will not open to the Nursery and Preschool or to Primary (Reception) aged pupils in September 2023. We have written to these families separately and are deeply saddened by this outcome. It is not what we wanted.

As a Trust, we are eager and hopeful that the Local Authority, who manage the admissions process, will be in touch with you as soon as possible to confirm your options at this stage and the next steps. We have been advised that this will be w/c 19th June. We know that you will, rightly, want this information as soon as possible.

Over the next few days, our team will be contacting each family to provide you with an opportunity to talk to us. If you do have any immediate thoughts, you can contact us via [info@matfordbrook.academy](mailto:info@matfordbrook.academy) or call us via 01404 793190; please leave your name and a contact number after the automated message and we will contact you.

We recognise that this ongoing uncertainty will be unsettling for you and your child. We continue to strive to provide an excellent education for our pupils, driven by our motto to 'write our story', with the brilliant staff who we have recruited for the first year of our school's opening.

This is not the first chapter that we were expecting and the delays to the building are frustrating for everyone it impacts but we are confident that when accommodation is confirmed, we will provide an excellent educational experience for Matford Brook Academy pupils.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Emily Simpson-Horne'.

Emily Simpson-Horne  
Headteacher Designate