



Thursday 25th May 2023

Dear pupils, parents and carers,

15 Mar

In our welcome letter to you, we outlined our intention to openly share plans as we moved towards the Academy's opening in September. This letter is to provide an update from the Department for Education regarding the progress of our building.

We have been informed by the Department for Education that our building is unlikely to be fully ready for occupation for September 2023. This is due to issues arising which will require further works. They are working hard, with their contractors, to remedy the issue and to revise the programme for completion. Further testing is underway to assess the extent of the issue. The outcomes of the tests will not be known until July and so contingency plans are now being prepared for a range of possible eventualities.

We have been told that part of the school site may still be ready. However, if we are unable to be onsite, the Department for Education are proactively investigating options for temporary offsite accommodation as close to the school site as possible. Whilst only recently informed of the extent of the potential issues, the Local Authority and the Trust are also negotiating with the Department for Education regarding timelines for decisions, advocating for the families and working with the team to look at contingency options.

We felt it was appropriate to give you this update - even though we have not been provided with the details of what this could look like next year - in our desire to build a trusting relationship with you. I appreciate that this news will likely feel frustrating and upsetting and that there will be questions about what next year will look like for you, as pupils and families. We have felt much the same and are incredibly disappointed by this news. We will keep you informed as we are told more by the Department for Education who oversee and hold the contract for the school's construction.

I am really sorry to share this news with you. It is our hope that we will still be onsite and our preparations for the Academy's opening continue. We will actively support the Department for Education next week and beyond as they explore contingency plans and, at all times, advocate for the best possible provision for our pupils and the first chapter of our story.

When further information is available, we will share this with you as soon as we are able to.





We maintain, at all times, our commitment to the following at the heart of our Academy's design:

- our mission: to provide an excellent, all-through education that empowers children to believe they can, and should, change the world around them
- our motto: we write our story
- our values: scholarship, kindness and community

If you have any immediate thoughts, you are welcome to send this to us via [info@matfordbrook.academy](mailto:info@matfordbrook.academy) and we will ensure that these are shared with the Department for Education. You can also call us via 01404 793190; please leave your name and a contact number after the automated message and we will contact you. Whilst we do not have further answers at this stage we are here to support you however we can.

Yours faithfully,

Emily Simpson-Horne  
Headteacher Designate

