

18th September 2023



Vyners School
Striving for Excellence

Dear prospective parents

Re: Vyners School Open Evening Update

I am sure that many of you will be aware from reports in the media that some schools across the country have been forced to either partially or fully close due to the existence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in the construction of roof/ceiling areas in parts of the school buildings. This is due to the fact that RAAC is less durable and has a shorter lifespan than traditional concrete.

The Government has been aware of the RAAC issue and its potential to fail for a number of years. However, it appears that 2-3 cases of failure in public buildings over recent months is what led the UK government to change its guidance at short notice, which has meant that schools have been forced to secure/close areas of their buildings where the product is present.

The Vanguard Learning Trust commissioned a surveyor to inspect the school site last week and the existence of RAAC was confirmed in the roof area of our original buildings that were constructed in 1960. The surveyor also suspects that there is RAAC in the area above the school hall, but this has not yet been confirmed.

At this moment in time, the school is temporarily closed to all students and we are awaiting further guidance from the Department for Education as to how we proceed. Given these circumstances, we are currently not in a position to confirm whether our annual open evening will take place on 27th September as advertised. A decision on this matter will be made by Wednesday 20th September at the latest with all relevant information being shared via the school website.

Obviously, this comes as a huge frustration. We have had a very positive start to the academic year and this issue has caused disruption to our families and students who currently attend the school. Furthermore, our annual open evening is a very important event for us and any decision to postpone or cancel will only be taken after careful consideration and will be in the interests of health and safety.

Finally, I would ask prospective parents to await the next update and not contact the school directly as this will reduce our capacity to deal with the current issues that we are facing. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

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