

Re: Possible return to KAA1
Friday 6th July 2018

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Governors of Kensington Aldridge Academy regarding the location of the Academy from September 2018. We as Governors needed to take a decision on this matter at our full Governors' meeting on Tuesday, 3rd July, so the Academy had time to plan for next year.

The Governors have voted to return to our original and purpose-built home in Silchester Road for the start of the academic year in September. We feel this decision is strongly supported by the parent body and students as polling across parents, carers and students came back with over 90% favouring a return to Silchester Road. Additionally, there is a weight of evidence that is sufficient for us to conclude that it is safe to return with Grenfell Tower stable in its current condition.

In taking this decision the Governors were motivated solely by the safety, wellbeing and educational prospects of the student body. I would like to thank all parents, carers and students for filling in their polling cards and providing us with your views and comments. We had over a 93% response from students and over 65% from parents and carers. This has helped to inform our decision alongside a wealth of other information from experts relating to fire procedures and risk assessments on our own building, the current condition of Grenfell Tower, reassurance on KAA2 and the deconstruction of Grenfell Tower, assessments on the health and well-being of our students and feedback from our staff and the community.

The decision made by the Governors to return to Silchester Road has been made with several conditions. This will give us and yourselves reassurances on several fronts. This includes;

- Governors appointing our own independent structural engineer who will report to the Governors and interpret data on Grenfell Tower to ensure we have a full and independent understanding of it.
- An agreement with the Grenfell Site Team that copies of reports / surveys in relation to the Grenfell Tower are provided to KAA and their appointed structural engineer promptly and regularly (or immediately in the case of emergency) following production (whether such reports relate to the stability, deconstruction and or any other matter)
- The establishment of a wholly separate air quality and asbestos monitoring process with an independent organisation to advise governors directly and to include monitoring both inside and outside the Academy. This will be in addition, and entirely separate, to the Public Health England monitoring that is already taking place which will continue to include monitoring on the roof of the Academy.

Finally, and very importantly, the Governors have received assurances from the Department for Education that KAA2 will be kept ready for us for the whole of the next academic year and longer if necessary. We hope you will agree that this gives us continuity and security. A demonstration of this commitment is the building of additional classrooms at KAA2 and keeping it in a position with chairs and desks etc. that it can be reoccupied within a very short space of time.

I want to reassure you that the support, counselling and therapy will continue in Silchester Road. As Governors, we recognise that a small number of students will have concerns about moving back to Silchester Road. Alongside



David Benson, our Principal, and all his staff, we are committed to working with every student to ensure they have the right support in place. We are also committed to having further meetings with parents about this issue, as required.

Students will be told about the decision on Monday 9th July in assemblies that will be hosted by David Benson and Niall Dumigan, Assistant Principal - Inclusion, who has led the therapy provision for students and staff since the fire. There are a small number of students that have been identified as having particular concerns about returning and they will be spoken to before the assemblies by an appropriate member of staff from the Academy on a one-to-one basis.

We are considering how we start the Autumn Term, ensuring we do not introduce all year groups into the building for the first time on the same day. The Academy will communicate with you soon on this matter.

In between now and September, the Academy and staff will ensure that students have as many opportunities as they can to reorientate themselves with our home. We will start to use the building more regularly, holding further induction activities for the current Years 7, 8 and 9 (Years 10 and 12 have been using the building for exams) before the end of term. Additionally, a number of summer enrichment programmes will be held during the summer break. It is hoped that students can attend some of these, with the older students mentoring in some cases, to help them become more comfortable in the building.

Further information is available on www.kaa.org.uk/students-parents/kaa1-faqs concerning the independent evidence and this will be updated again before the 10th July. We will also be holding further parent meetings with SLT and Governors if any of you wish to speak to us in person about it.

With best wishes,

Mick May OBE
Chair of Governors