



Department for Education

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David Benson and Mick May OBE
Kensington Aldridge Academy
Scrubs Lane
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Dear David and Mick,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership in the wake of the tragic events of 14 June last year. We know that the school is keen to return to its 'home' and reconnect with its community; indeed a return in September would be an important milestone for the whole community. We were pleased to hear about the positive reaction from your A Level students who have been taking their exams in the permanent site this term. We were also interested to hear about the reorientation visits you have been running for students in recent weeks and how well the majority of students have reacted to these, notwithstanding the emotion that returning to the permanent site will naturally cause.

We want to assure you that we are both acutely aware of the scale of the challenge trustees face on 3 July in considering the decision to return to the permanent site and we appreciate the importance of setting a clear plan for September for your students, their parents, your staff and the community before the end of term. We are reassured to see the level of rigour the trustees are giving to this important decision and are pleased to know that you are drawing on the support of key experts and partners, such as the NHS and the Tower site management team, as well as gathering the views and understanding the wishes of your school community. Though the decision on whether or not KAA moves back to its permanent site in time for the new academic year is something that can only be decided by the KAA trustees, we are determined that our departments continue to support you as you give careful consideration to your decision.

KAA is a key and trusted partner and we, and the site management team, are committed to continuing to work with you as the future of the Tower becomes clearer. As you will appreciate, the Grenfell Tower site remains a potential crime scene and the subject of a forensic police investigation, which must continue to take priority. No decision to bring down the Tower has yet been taken and as such any process of deconstruction has yet to be determined. Management of the Grenfell Tower site is led by Doug Patterson (Chief Executive of Bromley Council), on behalf of London Resilience, who is writing to you to respond directly to your requests for

information on wrapping, scaffolding and stability of the Tower, both now and in the future. It is right and proper that KAA and other key partners have a voice in how any deconstruction process would be implemented and that you can participate in relevant conversations. We envisage this should help you to inform and assess the impacts of any decisions, to enable you to raise any questions you may have and seek the necessary information you may need. We understand your need to safeguard children at the school before and during any deconstruction process, so are pleased to see the commitments from the site management team and Public Health England to continue to provide you with appropriate information wherever possible. We know there are particular concerns about air quality and we are pleased that Public Health England have confirmed they will continue to monitor this.

We know that trustees are keen to support a return to the permanent site, if possible and if the evidence supports it. As you are aware, the Department for Education (DfE) officials are also working closely with RBKC and your own facilities team to ensure that will be possible. The early advice from the site management team gives us confidence that the school should be able to remain in situ beside the Tower during any future deconstruction process, but we want to reassure you that if you were to return and circumstances should change, the DfE will support you to relocate back to your temporary site if the trustees decide that it is necessary. To limit the impact, should this be necessary, the DfE commits to keeping your temporary accommodation in place for at least a further year (2018/19). We will continue to discuss its necessity with you for future years, as information about the Tower becomes clearer. However, should the trust decide that KAA needs to stay at its temporary site for a further year, the DfE is well prepared to ensure that you are able to do so.

We appreciate your continued flexibility and recognise the enormous achievements you, your staff and your pupils, with the support of parents, have made despite the adversity you have faced as a result of the fire. We have asked that our officials keep us closely briefed on the outcome of your decision but please know that both of our departments are committed to supporting KAA through this important decision and beyond.



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