

5th October 2020

Counselling Services, Grenfell Site Updates & Mental Health Workshops

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing with a few key updates on various matters – the letters attached to this email contain further details for any parent interested in reading more about the topics mentioned below.

Grenfell Tower Communications

This autumn the Grenfell Site Team are carrying out safety works on Grenfell Tower to ensure its continued stability and safety until a decision is made about its future. The site team have an extensive communication strategy to outline the safety measures that are in place to protect local residents and businesses. You can read the community updates on these works below:

- Grenfell Site Team Community Letter:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/898011/03072020_Building_safety_works_letter.pdf
- Weekly Environmental Monitoring Reports:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire>

A reminder that queries about Grenfell Tower should be directed to the Grenfell Site Team and not the academy. You can contact the Grenfell site team here GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or 0303 444 0011.

We would like to reassure parents that the KAA Governing Body have independent (non-government) contractors who separately review the safety arrangements around Grenfell Tower to ensure we can fully trust in the public safety measures they have in place. You can read about all the work the academy has done around safety checking here: <https://kaa.org.uk/students-parents/kaa-l-faqs/>.

Counselling Services at KAA

As part of our pastoral support at KAA, we offer a range of counselling, therapeutic and psychological support to students and parents. KAA works closely with the NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) and Place2Be to develop a range of provision which meets different levels of need as required. Our Assistant Principal for Inclusion, Niall Dumigan, oversees and coordinates school-based therapy. Students are offered these services based on referrals by parents, academy staff or care workers, or by self-referral from students themselves.

We also offer a check-in service in school called 'Place2Talk', which is available to all year groups in the school. Students can make an appointment to spend 20 minutes with a trained Place2Be counsellor, either by themselves or with a friend. The counsellors give students a space to express themselves through talking and creative work, and to think about any worries they might have. Further information about Place2Be is attached.



Unless we hear otherwise from you, the school and Place2Be will assume that your child has parental consent to come to Place2Talk. If you are happy for your child to be able to access Place2Talk if they ever want to, you do not need to do anything. **If you would prefer that your child does not use this service, please email our Place2Be School Project Manager Christina on christina.macadam@place2be.org.uk** stating clearly that you do not want your child to be able to participate in Place2Talk, providing your child's full name and year group.

Mind Mental Health Support Workshops

The mental health charity MIND is offering free virtual workshops for parents and careers providing support on talking to your child about mental health and wellbeing and have asked us to circulate the timetable to interested parents. Parents and carers can book onto these workshops on Eventbrite via the sign-up link which can be found on the workshop posters attached.

And finally, please could I remind parents that students must bring a face mask with them to school each day unless they are medically exempt.

Best wishes,

Vashti Turner
EA to Principal