



Dear Blatch families,

I'm very pleased to now be able to share an update on our school site and our proposed plans for after half-term. As ever our intention is to be transparent in sharing as much information as we can and to give you clarity on our next steps.

### Update on our site

We are pleased at the progress being made by the contractors working on the remedial works. We now have the electrical supply reinstated from the middle of the school as far as the canteen and the network is being checked to ensure that all PCs and wifi hubs for Chromebooks are functioning.

Two partitions are being built around the most severely affected part of the school to enable building work to be carried out safely, and a deep clean company are working their way through the other areas before they carry out 'fogging' to remove the odour.

The current challenges are to isolate the damaged water routes and the water tank then needs to be cleaned in order for the system to be flushed through to eliminate any risk of harmful bacteria. We are also awaiting the damaged gas pipes being isolated so that the supply can be reinstated to the science rooms and to our heating system. Until these measures are carried out we will not have toilets, warm water for handwashing, functioning science labs or heating in some areas - we therefore need all of this work to be completed before we can open more of the school. **Our expected completion date for this is over half-term.**

The phase after this will be the reinstatement of the school kitchen, currently affected by the corrosive combination of smoke and moisture. We anticipate that Innovate (our catering company) will be able to **resume full catering service from the following week, beginning Monday 26th February**, after a deep clean, replacement of some equipment and a complete restock.

We are grateful for the supportive messages received from our school community and we are very proud of how well our students and staff have dealt with the severe disruption in a really positive way. For some however,



the impact and adaptations needed, will continue for a significant period; PE spaces offices, the RIC and the medical room will not immediately be accessible and it is going to be a while before our Food Tech and Design rooms will be usable. We are continuing to investigate all possible solutions and have the assistance of the insurance company and Brighton and Hove Property Design department in doing so.

### Plans for after half-term

**Our target**, shared with our colleagues at the local authority, **is to be able to open the school as far east as East Reception on Monday 19th February. This would mean that all students would return to our school site every day.**

However, as anyone who has had building or repair work carried out will know, we do have to recognise that the unexpected may occur (as a result of the work needed that is detailed above not going to plan) and so if there is any change to this plan we will let you know during the half term break. **A confirmation email of our plans will be sent on Thursday 15th February.**

A few key points for our re-opening to all students:

- **All students will need to continue to bring a packed lunch** (we will confirm with you when the canteen will definitely be open).
- **The timings of the school day will revert to our normal times of 8.40-3pm** - all students should go straight to form time each morning
- **Room changes** for all form rooms/teaching in our PE, Food and Design rooms, and for other changes needed to accommodate these subjects elsewhere, **will show on Edulink** from next week.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience - we cannot wait to have all our students back onsite with us every day, where they should be.

Best wishes,

Ms Claydon.

**Headteacher  
Blatchington Mill School**

