



RUTLISH SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Ms L. Howarth

01 April 2020

Dear Rutlish School Parents and Carers

Re: Coronavirus & Rutlish School Site & PFI issues

Coronavirus:

It is less than two months since I last wrote to you. To say all our lives have been turned upside down in the meantime is an understatement. I sincerely hope that all of you are safe and well.

I am copied on all the correspondence that the School/ Headteacher, Ms Laura Howarth, has sent to each of you over the last couple of weeks concerning the School closure and how the remote teaching and learning of the boys is to operate, etc. I do not intend to interfere in this process except to make two comments. One, it is difficult to see the School opening before September and two, we still need far more information about the detail of how external examinations will be graded this summer. Overall, I think the Government is correct to try and ensure the process is as fair as possible in its assessment rather than rushing into a process that might be flawed.

Rutlish School site & PFI issues:

In my 10 February letter I said I would update Parents & Carers regarding PFI site matters at the School & in particular, the Mostyn Road Playing Fields and the School's Sports Hall.

Mostyn Road Playing Fields:

The Rutlish Governing Body have agreed in principle with LBM that the Mostyn Road playing fields are to be taken out of the PFI contract between LBM & NewSchools. We are working towards an effective date of 01 June 2020 when the School will once again take over responsibility for the Mostyn Road playing fields. That will give the School three months to get them into a far better condition than they are for the start of the next academic year. Henceforth, the School will be responsible for their upkeep.

Rutlish School Sports Hall:

NewSchools have finally confirmed to LBM in writing that they will fully replace the Rutlish School Sports Hall floor. A risk survey was conditioned, and it was conclusive that the floor had to be totally replaced. In discussion with LBM and in view of the School closure the Rutlish Governing Body have requested the Sports Hall floor be replaced, not in the summer holidays, but far sooner. Frankly, the Governing Body are nervous to leave the Sports Hall floor to be replaced in the summer holidays as it leaves no margin for error as clearly this virus might delay matters further. LBM have agreed to press NewSchools for a far earlier replacement of the floor and I am waiting for confirmation that this indeed will occur.



School Blinds:

For far too long, too many of the School blinds especially in the main School building have either not been in existence or are in a terrible state such that the bright sun makes it extremely difficult for the boys to see the white boards whilst being taught. This matter has been going on too long under PFI and the Rutlish Governing Body have now drawn matters to a close and instructed the School to order the blinds, have them installed and to send the payment invoice to LBM.

Original School Windows:

The two original School buildings are now over 60 years old and the windows and glass are now up against their lifetime cycle. This was an extremely serious discussion last Summer when the Rutlish Governing Body only received the required safety confirmation just before the start of this academic year. NewSchools are querying that the windows/glass are indeed beyond their life cycle date, primarily because it will be an expensive project to replace all the windows in the two original School buildings. The Governing Body are following up on as a matter of urgency. Unlike the Mostyn Road playing fields and the Sports Hall floor, the windows do not impact on teaching and learning, yet the safety of the boys is equally, if not more, important.

I intend to write to you all just before half term of the Summer term with a further update. Please keep safe between now & then.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Peter A Norrie
Chair of the Rutlish Governing Body

cc Mr Stephen Alambritis, Leader of LBM Council.
Mr Ged Curran, CEO, LBM Council,
Ms Rachael Wardell, Director of Children, Schools and Families, LBM Council.
Mr Stephen Hammond, MP, Wimbledon.

