



THE DEAN TRUST
Lord Derby Academy

Chief Executive: Mr Tarun Kapur CBE
Headteacher: Mr Barry Bridden MEd MSc

12th June 2015

Dear parent/carer

I just wanted to make you aware of an article which has been published in the Independent at the weekend. It references schools, including this one, built by Balfour Beatty in Knowsley as part of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Specifically it highlights potential issues with fire stopping in these buildings – these are measures built into the building itself which should, in the event of fire, prevent it from spreading.

The issues initially came to light after an incident at Knowsley Park School where a small fire occurred in a kitchen. The fire was contained and pupils and staff were evacuated safely. However, investigations after this incident highlighted an issue with fire stopping measures at the school and as a result, the Council immediately requested surveys across its other schools built as part of the same programme. This identified similar issues and a full programme of work was agreed and is nearly complete.

Fire stopping measures are mechanism put in place to stop a fire spreading. The aim of these measures is largely to protect the building - we also protect pupils and staff by other means.

This includes having excellent evacuation procedures, regular fire drills, and an effective sprinkler system. Taking all of this into consideration, the Council's Corporate Health & Safety team and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service have together agreed that the **building is safe to occupy and are happy for it to remain open.**

I understand that the safety and wellbeing of your children is your top priority and I share that with you.

I will of course continue to work with the Council, Transform Schools (the Council's PFI partner and the company responsible for the school estate) and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service to ensure the ongoing safety of all those at our school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mr B. Bridden
Headteacher

Believe Achieve Succeed

Seel Road Huyton L36 6DG

t: 0151 477 8860

e: office@lordderbyacademy.co.uk

w: www.lordderbyacademy.co.uk

Registered in England 8027943 VAT Registration 132 9244 25