



Your Ref:  
Our Ref: ES/SP  
Contact: Eleanor Sheppard  
Location: Marischal College  
  
Date: 22nd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to update you on the circumstances at Northfield Academy today. I thank you for your patience over the afternoon and know that the situation has been of great concern to you all.

The fire alarm sounded early in the afternoon and all young people and staff were safely evacuated. The young people were a credit to their school and community and followed agreed evacuation routes at pace, their speed and the orderly evacuation have been commended by the Emergency Services. No young people or staff were injured or required medical attention.

The Police and Fire Service attended, established a cordon around the school and quickly extinguished the fire from the school roof. As investigations progressed the Emergency Services have been able to ascertain that the fire was limited to one part of the school roof and did not spread inside the building. This is welcomed news to us all.

The Fire Service has confirmed that the building is structurally sound and staff were able to re-enter the building to collect their personal effects in the afternoon. As you might expect, water damage is evident in some classrooms and we will continue to assess the damage to determine next steps over the coming hours.

Given the circumstances, we have taken the decision to keep the building closed for tomorrow only. Council teams will arrange for all services to be checked tomorrow but hope to welcome young people back into Northfield Academy on Wednesday. The Head Teacher will confirm this provisional arrangement with you tomorrow.

In order to ensure that provision is not adversely impacted we have made alternative arrangements for young people who were due to attend Northfield Academy tomorrow. Children who were due to attend key worker/vulnerable learner provision will be collected from Northfield Academy at 8.45am and driven by coach to Aberdeen Grammar School where they will be supported by Northfield staff. The young people will be returned to Northfield Academy at the end of the school day.

S4 young people who were due to attend school tomorrow afternoon should make their way to Northfield at 1.30pm. They will be taken by coach to Aberdeen Grammar and returned at the end of the school day.

Young people who were due to be attending school for Woodwork and Music will have their session reorganised and Mr Watt will advise you of arrangements in the coming days.

I thank you once again for your patience and understanding and be assured that the incident will be thoroughly investigated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eleanor Sheppard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

**Eleanor Sheppard**

Chief Education Officer