

NORTHFIELD ACADEMY

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23/3/2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I write with an update regarding the incident at Northfield Academy on Monday 22nd March.

As Eleanor Sheppard mentioned yesterday in her letter to you, a fire broke out at approximately 1.45pm yesterday on the roof of B block. I would like to reassure you that this incident will be investigated thoroughly.

I can confirm that all staff and pupils were evacuated swiftly and safely in accordance with our fire evacuation policy and procedures and very quickly afterwards, all emergency services attended and established a secure perimeter cordon. The fire service promptly brought the fire under control. The emergency services have commended all staff and pupils for their calmness and professionalism in what was a very fast-moving and dynamic situation. I would also like to take this opportunity to add my personal thanks to all staff and pupils; they were all a credit to our school community!

I am pleased to report that after extensive surveys by Health and Safety colleagues and specialist services, that Northfield Academy has only suffered damage through water ingress in one block from the fire hoses and there is no structural, smoke or fire damage internally. Consequently, the school has been approved as safe to return on Wednesday 24th March 2021. We look forward to welcoming back keyworker pupils, vulnerable pupils, senior phase practical pupils and "reconnect" sessions as planned.

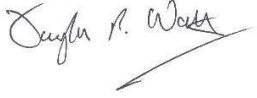
This event has understandably been extremely traumatic for all concerned but especially so for the staff, pupils and the wider Northfield Community. As a school we have been inundated with offers of support and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alison Murison, Head Teacher at Aberdeen Grammar School, and her staff for their offer of temporary accommodation today to enable us to continue our education provision.

As a staff we will be monitoring the health and wellbeing of our colleagues and pupils closely in the coming days and have the ACC EP service on standby to support where necessary.

Finally, I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of you parents and carers. Yesterday evening I spent a considerable amount of the night responding to communications, letters and messages of support from our community, as well as reading messages of support on our social media channels. The outpouring of best wishes and positivity was truly overwhelming! It is in times of crisis that you realise the true strength and depth of support and compassion in your community.

We look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas P. Watt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Douglas Watt
Head Teacher

Aspire to be outstanding
