



8th December, 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for your understanding and messages of support this past week as we navigate the situation with the original construction of the main block. Following a week of meetings with the Department for Education, Luton Borough Council, Northampton Diocese and the St Thomas Catholic Academy Trust we are developing a plan to move forward.

The issue with the main block remains the same. There is concern over the construction of the floors in the building and the concrete blocks that were used in the 1960s. These are not RAAC but appear to have reached a point where some are no longer fulfilling their purpose, and there is a small risk of falling debris. The concrete beams throughout the block are not compromised. We are therefore looking at putting in structures to mitigate against any risk of the falling debris. We are seeking expertise from many professionals in different capacities to ensure that whatever action we take is taken under the best possible advice. This includes structural engineers as well as concrete specialists.

Next week we will continue with the same arrangements as this week. Years 7-10 will remain at home and participate in on-line learning and Years 11-13 will remain in school.

Year 7-10 have engaged brilliantly in their online lessons and the attendance is exceptional, with over 80% of students attending all their online lessons. I couldn't be more proud of all of them. This morning I did a brief assembly with over 750 students attending online, this is tremendous.

Staff have had to adapt quickly and re-learn how to teach online with the platform we use and again I couldn't be more proud of how quickly they have adapted.

Years 11-13 have been in school and have coped well with the number of room changes to ensure that they can be onsite.

You are warmly invited to join us for our Advent Celebration Carol Service on Monday 18 December at 7pm. You will need to book your free ticket here: [Cardinal Newman Catholic School event tickets from TicketSource](#).

Please order one ticket per person wishing to attend. Students taking part in the Carol Service do not need a ticket. Refreshments will be provided by the PTA.

Christmas dinner for years 11-13 will be on Wednesday, all students who have not purchased a ticket for this will need to either have a packed lunch or get their food at break. Year 7-10 will have their Christmas dinner money refunded at the beginning of next week.

Andrew Bull
Headteacher

Safeguarding for online learning

The safeguarding section of the school website is updated regularly and includes a lot of helpful information around current challenges and how we manage safeguarding at Cardinal Newman. We also have our key contacts on this page. To access this please follow this [link](#).

Social Media channels

Please do follow us on Twitter and Instagram to see and hear news as it comes from the many activities that the students participate in regularly. They are a real place of celebration! Both can be found as @cnsluton