

Friday 7th July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

The Government is taking the potential impact from the Grenfell Tower fire very seriously. As our building is cladded with Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) and is over 18 metres high, the DfE very promptly arranged for samples to be taken for further checks. These samples will be tested as part of the national testing process by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and we expect the results later next week.

It is important to stress the ACM cladding is not in itself dangerous, but it is important it is the correct type and is fitted correctly; the sample testing is currently checking all of this.

I appreciate this testing process may raise concerns but I want to reassure you that we have strict fire safety measures already in place and the additional precautions being taken ensure the building is as safe as possible.

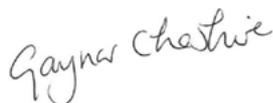
As a precautionary measure, the DfE also arranged for the fire and rescue service to carry out an inspection. Three fire officers walked the building and reviewed our fire risk assessment and they all agreed we had robust systems in place. We have termly fire drills, test our alarms at 2pm every Friday and the system is linked to a remote call centre. Whilst no building can be totally risk free, they consider ours to be a very low risk.

The events at Grenfell were awful but the circumstances at BOA are not comparable. We have 4 internal staircases plus the external fire escape, 12 fire exits on the ground floor and a sprinkler system. We operate during daylight hours and all occupants are awake.

We have this morning had a fire drill and exited the building in 3 minutes 30 seconds.

I am writing to you to keep you informed but all negative results are made public. Should our cladding sample test be negative, the media may well detail the results before I am able to communicate with you. I will be in touch again once we have the results. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Gaynor Cheshire
Principal