



Our Ref: AF/SWD

1 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete but, because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC, to take a more precautionary approach. As a result, areas in affected spaces in some schools are not being used. I am aware of the disruption and concern this has caused in several schools.

I have today checked with Sir Robert McAlpine, the builders of Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy. They have reassured me that none of this form of concrete was used in the construction of the school.

I therefore wanted to inform you that we are not affected, since we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings. Our school will therefore continue to function as normal.

We look forward to seeing all our students on Wednesday 6 September at 08:40.

Yours faithfully

Mr A T Fowler
Principal