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20th September 2023

Dear All,

Progress on College Building

We promised to keep you updated and we are sorry that we have not been able to because we had no further information to share.

There are not adequate words to express the distress and frustration of governors on behalf of students, parents and staff at this situation. I think it's fair to say that we made that very clear at the project board yesterday. We simply do not understand how this situation could have been allowed to happen bearing in mind the original contractual completion date was May 2023.

We made a further site visit on Monday, and although there has undoubtedly been some progress, no area is yet completed and ready for occupation. There remains a huge amount of work to do.

Although we still do not have an agreed completion date as the contractor has yet to provide a time plan that is robust and realistic. Moving to the new building at half term is no longer feasible as there remains too much work to do and risks involved. We also do not want staff and parents to have to make arrangements and pack the college up only for the move to be aborted at the last minute.

We are now working hard with WSCC to ensure that the contractor has the building ready for us to move in the New Year 2024. However, sadly, it is not possible to provide any further certainty than that as we have little confidence in the time plans.

Hopefully, this will ensure that the contractor ISG completes the building and external works in their entirety to the proper standard which meets building regulation approvals and achieves formal Certificate of Sectional Completion confirming that it is "completed and fit for occupation".

This should also allow for the transition arrangements we were originally promised at the outset.

At our Project Board meeting with WSCC yesterday, WSCC accepted that although an actual date has yet to be agreed it will be a Christmas move and all efforts will be made to press the contractor to deliver by then.

We are now being permitted to regularly visit the site for ourselves and will continue to update you following these visits.

Regards

Marion Wilcock
On behalf of Governors Woodlands Meed.