

RSO/RCL/TBA/OPH

5 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Re: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)**

You may be aware from media coverage that the government has asked some schools to close or partially close due to the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in their school buildings.

RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete. As 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. As a result, it is instructing schools and academies that affected spaces must be vacated.

We understand that this is an unsettling news story and that it may naturally have led you to wonder about the safety of our own academy buildings.

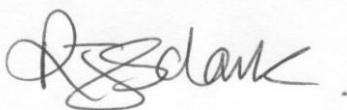
**Having followed the Department for Education's (DfE's) self-assessment guidance, we believe that neither Plume Academy Campus contains RAAC and are both fully safe to open.**

We understand that parents/carers may wish to understand more about how the DfE are supporting schools and educational settings to manage RAAC safely. For further information, please see the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub, which can be accessed via this weblink: [New guidance on RAAC in education settings](#) .

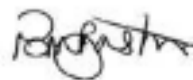
Should you have any further questions, please contact Mr Richard Scott, Director of Finance and Premises via [R.Scott@plume.essex.sch.uk](mailto:R.Scott@plume.essex.sch.uk) .

I hope that this provides reassurance, and we look forward to welcoming your child to our safe and secure learning environment on Wednesday 6 September 2023.

Yours sincerely,



**Ruth Clark**  
Joint Head of Academy



**Tom Baster**  
Joint Head of Academy