

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Thursday 28 July 2022

Wootton Academy Trust Cybersecurity Incident Communications Update

Dear all,

I hope you are doing well and enjoying a very well-earned summer break.

As you know, we firmly believe in the importance of community at Wootton Academy Trust so in the interests of transparency I wanted to give you an update on the cyber incident we experienced at the end of term.

I know that many of you will have been wondering what caused the disruption. We've been working hard to understand what happened and we've now been able to confirm that we experienced a ransomware incident. I know that this news may cause you some concern so I want to reassure you that we're taking this extremely seriously and investigating alongside external forensic specialists. Clearly one area we are focused on is any potential impact this incident may have had on personal data and we will share a more detailed update next week.

You may also have received some emails from the group responsible for this incident over the last few days. This is a common tactic used in situations like this and is designed to increase the pressure on our community. Please simply ignore the emails and don't click on any links or attachments. As always, we recommend that you remain vigilant and don't interact with any email that looks suspicious.

It is really important that we avoid any unhelpful speculation or rumours so please pass any enquiries on this topic through to the email address watcommunications@wootton.beds.sch.uk

As we said last week, the UK's education sector is currently experiencing a significant increase in these types of cyber incidents and we are determined to learn from this experience. Our team is working round the clock to minimise any impact to teaching and learning when school returns. Inevitably there will be some residual disruption so I would like to apologise in advance and thank you for your patience. We are already working to put in place workarounds that will mitigate any disruption ahead of the new school year.

As I said above, we will be back in touch with more detail next week as our investigation continues to make progress. I also want to thank you in advance for your understanding during this time.

Yours sincerely



Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
Wootton Upper School & Arts College
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College
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