

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Thursday 4 August 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know honesty and openness are key values for us here at Wootton Academy Trust so, in the interests of transparency, I want to give all parents and carers of Wootton Upper School pupils and Kimberley College students an update on the ransomware incident we experienced at the end of term.

I completely understand that this will have caused some concern and would like to apologise as well as reassuring you that our number one priority is supporting our pupils and students and you, their parents/carers.

As you already know, our IT team proactively monitor our network and identified some suspicious activity on part of our system at the end of term. We have since been investigating this activity alongside external forensic specialists. Our investigation has made progress and established that the group responsible copied some information from part of our system. Their modus operandi is to threaten to publish this data so we are monitoring online sources for posts including our information and have not identified any.

I want to emphasise that our investigation is ongoing and, therefore, it is important to stress that we are not yet in a position to confirm what data was affected. We are now in the process of understanding what data was copied from our systems so that we can accurately and appropriately inform affected individuals.

In parallel, we are also making progress getting everything back up and running ready for the new school year. We are working towards our Trust email accounts being online again in time for September. As I said last week, there may be some residual disruption and I would like to thank you in advance for your patience.

It's really important that we make sure this process is completed safely and securely, which can take some time. With exam results due later in August, we are working with the Exam Boards on a secondary, alternative method for delivering these as a precautionary step, just in case it is needed. We hope it won't be, but if there is any change in process, we will let you know ahead of time.

As promised, we will continue to keep you updated as our investigation progresses. Once again, thank you very much for your ongoing support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

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