

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Nova Education Trust



CYBER ATTACK ON OUR IT INFRASTRUCTURE

Friday 5 March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

On Wednesday 3 March, Nova Education Trust and our schools were the victims of a serious cyber attack, which resulted in unauthorised access to our IT network.

The immediate response was to shutdown the entire trust's IT infrastructure as a security precaution, whilst our central IT team investigated the incident to determine its potential impact.

Telephones and e-mail were suspended and all websites were taken offline.

As a result, we were unable to provide remote teaching or upload new learning resources for our students. Alternative provisions were put in place for remote teaching whilst our systems were down.

As of today, we have restored access to our e-mail and Microsoft Teams so students can access their work to continue with online learning. All our schools' websites are also now back online.

At this point, there is no indication to suggest that any personal data was breached as a result of the cyber attack.

We are continuing to work closely with experts from the National Cyber Security Centre and the National Crime Agency to evaluate the origin of the attack and expedite the recovery process.

Our central IT team and in-school technicians will be continuing with the restoration of the infrastructure for the remainder of this week and throughout the weekend, aiming to ensure that IT provision is in place for when our students return next week.

I have been overwhelmed by the positive messages and offers of support and expertise from our fellow Multi Academy Trusts, both locally and nationally, as well as the DfE, the ESFA and the local authorities.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to our wonderful IT team, who worked vigorously throughout Wednesday night and the early hours of Thursday morning in an effort to restore access to our IT systems as quickly as possible.

In turn, I would like to thank all our amazing staff and students for their patience whilst we continue with our IT recovery operation, and all our parents and carers for their wishes of support.

Schools will continue to provide updates on the IT situation throughout the coming days, as well as arrangements for all pupils returning to the classroom.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our students back to school next week after what has been an incredibly challenging period for all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A. Rahman'.

Ashfaq Rahman
Chief Executive Officer
Nova Education Trust