



29th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

You may be aware that today a Joint Statement has been issued by East Midlands Education Trust and Broxtowe Borough Council. The statement sets out:

The Joint Use Agreement for Kimberley Leisure Centre between the East Midlands Education Trust and Broxtowe Borough Council will end on 22nd April 2022.

This means control of the land and buildings will revert to The Kimberley School and will be used during the school day for the benefit of the students who attend the school and local primary schools. The school, however, is committed to providing community access to the leisure facilities during evenings, weekends and school holidays.

Kimberley School and Broxtowe Borough Council will now create a joint planning group. The role of this group will be for both organisations to work together to ensure that there is a smooth transition and that members of the community can continue to make use of the leisure facilities outside of school hours. Any community groups who are interested in accessing the facilities from April 2022 should contact the school via kimberleysportscentre@kimberleyschool.co.uk

I thought it might be helpful for you, as parents of students attending Kimberley School or one of our family of primary schools, to understand a little more about this decision.

In April 2020 the East Midlands Education Trust (EMET) served a notice of termination to Broxtowe Borough Council which set out that the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) would end on April 22nd 2022. The JUA allowed the Council to use Kimberley School's land and buildings to operate a leisure centre. In recent years the leisure centre has been run for the Council by a commercial third party, Liberty Leisure.

EMET served the notice because it is our view that despite the efforts of the Council, Liberty Leisure and Kimberley School to work together; the Joint Use Agreement is no longer fit for purpose and the current arrangements have been to the detriment of our students for several reasons.

The PE National Curriculum quite rightly requires that students should be "involved in a range of activities that develops personal fitness and promotes an active, healthy lifestyle". The Joint Use Agreement has permitted only very limited access for our students to the leisure centre facilities during the school day and as such has limited the opportunities that our students have to engage in a variety of physical activities as part of their curriculum.

By taking control of our own land and buildings during the school day we will be able to significantly enhance the opportunities for our students to engage in a variety of physical activities. Importantly we will

also be able to work closely with our family of primary schools (including the schools who are part of EMET as well as the schools who are not) to facilitate enhanced access for their students.

Kimberley School is a popular school. We are oversubscribed in all year groups and the success of our Sixth Form provision has led to a significant increase in the number of students in Years 12 and 13. Indeed the number of students attending the school has increased by over 120 in the last five years. Many of you will be aware that EMET recently funded our new Sixth Form Centre which replaced some mobile classrooms. Whilst this has created additional study facilities for Sixth Form students it has not increased the number of classrooms available to us and, as such, has not created extra space for the 1200 students who are in Years 7 to 11. This change in use during the school day will create urgently needed additional space for students across the school to access.

Finally, any of you who have been around the entrance to the school site at the start and end of the school day will have seen how busy it is with students, cars and buses. Many schools close their school drives at these times in order to ensure the safety of students as they arrive and leave the school site. The current arrangements mean that we are not able to do this. By making this change we will be able to make important safeguarding decisions, such as this, during the school day without also having to take into account the needs of the leisure centre.

It is important for me to emphasise that we have taken this decision because the operation of a Joint Use Agreement is no longer compatible with our main priority of providing the very highest quality education for our students. Myself and the governors are accountable for the quality of education we can provide to our community. We have driven significant improvements in the school in the last five years and this decision will further strengthen the work that we can do in the coming years. Having complete control over the whole site during the school day will be of significant benefit to the education and experience of the children and young people who attend Kimberley School.

However, as the joint statement sets out we are determined to continue to allow the public to access the facilities outside of the school day and we have started work with Broxtowe Borough Council to prepare for this. We recognise the importance of this facility to our community and we are determined to achieve a smooth transition next year. Our commitment to continuing to allow the community to use the facilities has already been demonstrated by the [lettings programme](#) we run for the three all-weather football pitches. Parents and Carers will also be reassured to understand that EMET will support the school with further capital investment in the current leisure centre building to ensure it remains properly maintained.

We will use the school website to update you on our preparations for community access to the facilities from April 2022. In the meantime, if you are part of or run a community sports/leisure group and would like to talk to us about accessing the facilities then please do contact us on kimberleysportscentre@kimberleyschool.co.uk. You should also use this email address if you have any questions about details in the joint statement or in this letter.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew George
Head Teacher