Dear customer,

**Important information regarding fire safety at New Bridewell**

As you may be aware, the UK government has been testing different types of building cladding to understand how fire retardant it is following a major fire in a high-rise residential building in London in June 2017.

New Bridewell has a limited amount of cladding made of Aluminium Composite Material on certain areas of the building. Following the results of the government tests, it has become clear the fire retardant properties of this cladding do not meet the high standards we would expect, or had anticipated upon installation.

We are pleased to advise that we have appointed a company to carry out replacement of the external cladding system that surrounds the building on all elevations. We would like to make clear that the current construction and fire strategy for the building is considered perfectly safe and that there is no risk to occupants either currently or during the course of the works. The works have been instigated by the building owners in order to demonstrate their continued obligations towards being at the forefront of safety and the wellbeing of all residents. This cladding will therefore be replaced during the summer of 2018 and into the 2018/19 academic year.

Our Fire Risk Assessor has confirmed that New Bridewell is safe for occupation for students and we want to reassure you that your safety while living with us is our priority. We have robust fire safety systems and procedures in place at New Bridewell. For your information, we have outlined these below:

- Vertical and horizontal fire breaks behind the cladding to prevent fire from spreading within the cavity of the cladding.
- The incorporation of both fire-rated doors and internal partitions to provide high levels of internal fire compartmentation in accordance with modern construction standards.
- Fire alarm system covering all areas, which signals either a phased or full evacuation of the building in the event of a fire
- 24/7 remote monitoring of the fire alarm system.
- 24/7 on site staffing.
- Multiple escape routes.
- Smoke ventilation systems to remove smoke from the building in the event of a fire.
- Dry riser enabling the provision of high-pressure water to fire fighters on all floor levels.
- Fire blankets at all cooking facilities.
- Fire extinguishers present in all required areas with staff trained in their use.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions about the removal of the cladding at New Bridewell you can call Josh Wisniewski, Accommodation manager of New Bridewell on 01179927640 or email josh.wisniewski@freshpg.com

We look forward to meeting you in the upcoming months.