

## **THOUGHTS & SOME ADVICE FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD**

(following the DfE's deregistration order of 26 July 2017)

“Our highest endeavour must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives. The need for imagination, a sense of truth, and a feeling of responsibility—these three forces are the very nerve of education.” Rudolf Steiner

If you're wondering what to do about school in the next 3 or 4 weeks before terms starts we have few suggestions.

Read and review the emails and attachments that have been shared with you in the last two weeks. If you don't have them handy you can find them through the link at the top of the front page of the school website:

Monday 31 July - Update: Letter to Parents

Tuesday 1 August - Letter to Parents AND Notes on the Whole School Meeting of 27 July

Monday 7 August - Letter to Parents on the legal process ahead

Weds 9 August - Letter to Parents about the 'Parent Advisory Council'

Sunday 13 August - School - What to Do Next ?

Talk over what you have found there and share your concerns about school with friends, especially those in the same class or in the same age group.

3. Decide what questions you may still have and then get in touch with the school leaders, or class teachers and sponsors.

Option a. Call the office between 9 and 4pm. Next week these people will be available: Julian Paine, Tina Hobday, Carol Langley

Option b. Email a question to the Trustees at [questions@rsskl.org](mailto:questions@rsskl.org)

Option c. If you wish you may be able to talk to your class teacher, but you will first have to call the office and see if they can put you in touch.

## **WHAT ABOUT GCSEs and A LEVELS ?**

If your son / daughter is starting a GCSE or A level course in the autumn term you may be wondering what to do before term starts, or quite understandably whether or not to stay on at RSSKL.

We are approaching the Appeal against deregistration confidently and believe that we have a very good case. We have an excellent team in place,

including a new Head Teacher, new Trustees with specialism in HR and Safeguarding, and a first class legal team in Mishcon de Reya and in particular the lawyer Anthony Julius. In addition we have the will to succeed and the resources and determination to meet all the Independent School Standards.

Please read the letter to parents on 'The Legal Process Ahead', which details the process from here.

In the event that the DfE's decision is upheld and the school has to close, the school's appeal barrister will petition for a timeline for closure that allow pupils to relocate in a way that does not interfere with their successful completion of their studies - both the exam and Steiner / Waldorf curriculum.

In the worse case it is our intention that the school will be open until at least the end of the year.

We are looking into contingencies in the event that the school is closed part way through the year (for eg Spring Term). The School leadership will do everything they can to ensure a positive future for pupils. That would include help in finding another school, or support to continue with home schooling, or tutoring with some of your current teachers.

### **A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT TALKING TO YOUR SON / DAUGHTER**

Once you have made sense of all the letters and conversations, pass on whatever is most reassuring and supportive for child / children to hear.

Talk to a parent that you trust, who you consider to be very stable and reassuring, and who have similar aged children. Then decide how to phrase things in advance. You might say things like:

"Yes, of course our school will be open and all its teachers looking forward to the new year."

"All schools and businesses have challenges. Our job in the coming year is to meet those challenges responsibly and to tell people what makes our school special and such an important place for young people to grow and learn."

"We have lots of very positive and important people at the school, and many, many friends of the school who are working everyday to build the best possible future for all of us."

"And don't forget that what makes all this work is that we (your parents) will make sure that you get the very best that you can from your education, this year and every year after that."

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW TERM**

As staff and teachers we are getting ideas together for how to respond suitably to pupils when they come back to school.

Above all we are thinking positively about the year ahead and planning our lessons and stories, preparing our classrooms and maintaining the space more conscious than ever that the children and parents at our school are offered an education that embodies values crucial to the healthy development of each individual, our society and the world we live in - not just on paper, but living in the classrooms and shared between the pupils, staff and parents of the school.

With very best wishes

Julian Paine – SMT  
On behalf of the staff and teachers, RSSKL