



19 March 2020

Dear Parents,

Temporary Closure of Rowan Preparatory School

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all state schools in England will close temporarily for the vast majority of children from the end of the day on Friday 20 March. They have requested that this is also the case for all independent and boarding schools.

As you would expect, we will be adhering to this request. This decision has been taken on the advice of medical and scientific experts in order to manage the spread of COVID-19 and relieve pressure on the health system. All of us in the education sector have a responsibility to do everything we can to ensure this.

From Monday 23 March, pupils' education will continue from home until the end of term and then, in all likelihood, continue in this way after the Easter Holidays.

By the end of this week we will send you specific details of how this will operate for us at Rowan and girls will also be bringing home packs and resources at the end of the week. Miss Gorman, Director of Studies, will be in contact shortly with full details. We have prepared well for these circumstances so that all our girls can continue their education from home during the closure. For those girls already at home, we will arrange times for the safe collection of materials. The staff have worked above and beyond over the last few weeks to create a new teaching and learning model. Over today and tomorrow, the girls are taking part in training sessions to give them an introduction to some of our methods of home learning and we will meet together (in smaller groups) tomorrow for our final assembly of the term.

Following on from the statement made by Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, you will have noted that, where possible, schools have been asked to remain open for two specific groups of students:

- Those whose parents are defined as key workers (for example, those employed in the NHS, emergency services or elements of the food supply chain); and
- Those who are considered particularly vulnerable (for example, those with an EHCP)

Although a definitive list of which professions will be considered as key workers will be released later today, we need to ask you to complete this [form](#) if you believe you fall into this category. Please complete this form no later than 9.00am tomorrow morning, Friday 20 March, so that we can make suitable arrangements.

We are entering times of further uncertainty, speculation and concern, and our responsibility as a school, like yours as a parent, is to give our young people the learning, support and reassurance that they will need in the coming weeks. This will be a new way of educating the girls and it will require all of us to embrace our Star Qualities. These qualities of positivity, empathy, resilience, perseverance and collaboration will become even more essential over the coming weeks. The team around your girls are determined to make this new way of learning and living as successful as possible. There will be new norms, we will continue to provide your girls with a rich and exciting education, their pastoral care and welfare remains at the heart of our provision and they will continue to flourish as Rowan girls.

Going forward, we will continue to update you regularly now and in the future. We have systems in place to communicate with the girls and with you. We have created dynamic learning spaces for collaboration, feedback and learning; this will be in addition to workbooks and practical activities provided for learning at home. There will inevitably be more questions, however further detailed information will be forthcoming.

We have been overwhelmed by the positive and supportive messages from so many of our parents, and we would like to tell you how much this means to every member of staff at Rowan. This is a transition period and there may be times when things are complicated or not working as expected. We ask you to be patient with us and know that every single person is doing their utmost to provide the best possible education and support for your girls. Although we won't be together in one building, in true Rowan spirit, we will find new ways of building our community and looking out for each other.

I never imagined for a moment that we as a school, nation or world would find ourselves in this position, but I would also like to add that I am so proud of our staff, girls and you, the parents. We have pulled together and your words of kindness and support have kept us all going over the past few weeks. The girls have been brilliant, enjoying moments playing together outside, supporting each other with compassion and maturity. They have already begun to embrace new ways of learning and we of course will come out the other side of this time with greater wisdom and newfound ways of working together.

Needless to say, we are already looking forward to seeing happy faces bounce into school once more.

Kind regards

Susan Clarke
Headmistress