



## **The President**

**Keio Academy of New York  
3 College Road, Purchase  
New York 10577  
USA**

August 20, 2020

Dear Parents & Students:

I continue to have you all very much in mind as the new academic year draws near. Our Faculty and Staff have been working hard to prepare for our Distance Learning program that will soon begin and before that for the Induction program for new students and for the Entrance Ceremony that will take place on September 6. (US Eastern Time)

We cannot pretend, of course, that opening the new academic year online will be the same as it would be if we were all on campus, but I am confident that our Entrance Ceremony will convey the excitement that always comes in the new academic year, when old friendships are renewed and new friendships are kindled. At the end of the month all necessary information will be posted on KANYOS, including the Distance Learning timetable, the new Parent-Student Handbook 2020, together with handbooks covering Boarding Life, Student Discipline and Sports & Cultural Clubs. All these handbooks have been recast in a new and easily accessible format; they will be updated, when necessary, at the beginning of every term, to ensure we all have a clear and current understanding of what the School expects and how it operates.

There is one particular item to which I need to draw to your attention, and that is the change in the girls' uniform we announced in March. I have received a number of communications about this matter, from parents and students, the contents of which I have considered carefully. As I explained in an earlier communication, the School Uniform is designed to express the School's tone and dignity while at the same time being comfortable to wear and consistent with current style. Uniform garments should also be of good quality but sensibly priced, as adolescents grow through various stages and garments wear out. I have been concerned about the expense of some of the garments that make up the Keio uniform. Taking all these things into account, we have decided to maintain our decision that the skirt will no longer be part of the School Uniform and that it will be replaced by charcoal gray slacks, which can be worn by girls and boys. There is no reason why these slacks should not be worn outside the School context as well, as they are stylish and well-cut. We have found a New York supplier, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms, who will make the official machine-washable non-iron garment for less than \$40 a pair. In due course a website ordering facility will be available, but there is no hurry for that, as we have nearly six months to go before our hoped-for return to the New York campus.

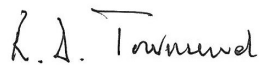
Over the past few months our Development and Alumni Relations personnel have been working hard to improve the School's communications with our alumni community. We will also launch a totally redesigned website to improve the School's communications to function as our prospectus for parents

looking for a school for their children. Again, like the uniform, we want the website to express the unique tone, dignity and academic ambition of our bilingual and bicultural program.

My mentioning our bilingual program brings me to my final point in this letter. The School has decided to adopt as a matter of policy convention that the entire School community, Faculty, Staff and students, will speak English only throughout the working day, from breakfast until the end of Evening Study Hour. Our Summer Online English Program has shown how much progress can be made in the learning of English if it pervades all our classes and activities. Good Japanese of course continues to be essential too. Our promise to Keio University is that we will provide a reliable stream of undergraduates with secure spoken and written English in order to help it achieve its mission to be a global university and to help our students take their place in a world in which Japan is a major player. I ask parents to support their children and encourage to read, write and speak English at every opportunity.

This letter comes with my cordial good wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. D. Townsend". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

Dr R D Townsend  
President