



The President

20 March 2021

Dear Keio Parents:

I am writing this brief letter, as Winter Term closes, to thank you once again for your support of the School during these troubled times of pandemic. Our Distance Learning program has continued to provide challenges to both teachers and students, but in the Keio spirit we have managed even so to maintain a lively community of learning.

Heads of House have arranged inter-House social occasions, ensuring that boys and girls connect with each other. In Tokyo Mr Yamamoto has arranged in-person meetings as far as Covid restrictions have allowed. The online student presentations arranged for Fukuzawa Speech Day were intellectually stimulating and heart-warming in their sincerity. Ms Hori's online fitness sessions have been both beneficial and fun for the students prepared to rise early enough to participate, and the School Assemblies organised by the Dean of Students have helped maintain good student discipline and a strong sense of School identity.

Next term (with about 170 students back in New York and a similar number continuing with the Distance Learning program) presents us with the opportunity to run a hybrid program, with Faculty back on campus during the day teaching our returners, while offering early morning or early evening (New York time) interactive classes for those students still at home. As I explained during our online Parents' Association meetings, interactive teaching will be unavoidably limited, but coupled with a streamed-class element, the hybrid program will still give Distance Learning students the structure and stimulus they need to make good academic and social progress.

During the period of campus closure we have been unable to run an important standard element of our Personal, Social and Health Education program, that of Drug Education, and I wanted to let you know that we will run an enhanced program under the direction of the Dean of Students, one for Juniors, one for Seniors, for those on campus next term, with another instalment when (as we anticipate) all students are back on campus in New York for the Fall Term. We take this aspect of an informed preparation for modern adult life very seriously.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to my Senior Management Committee, which has met week by week through the Winter Term, managing current operations and preparing for all the complexities of our Spring Term Re-opening. The Deans and Directors who make up SMC are a very competent group of professionals, without whom the School could not serve you and your children effectively.

I look forward to next term's online Parents' Association meeting with you all.

Yours sincerely,

R. A. Townsend