

**Address** Gatton Park, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0TD

**Headmaster** Mark Dixon

**Telephone** 01737 649000

**Fax** 01737 649002

**Website** [www.raa-school.co.uk](http://www.raa-school.co.uk)

# ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



Dear Parent,

Over the last six months we have navigated a journey through unknown territory. At the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to close the School and then quickly reopen for keyworker and vulnerable children. After reopening in March the School remained open continuously through the Easter and half-term holidays, until the Summer break in early July. Throughout that time, we had very few pupils and the School was a very different place. Most pupils were accessing their learning from home.

Since then, we have been absolutely determined that all pupils should be able to come back to School in September. Staff have been working throughout the summer to make this happen in a way that ensures the safety of all members of the School community.

On Thursday we achieved that goal, and I can once again hear the familiar buzz of pupils going to lessons and chatting to friends they haven't seen for months. I am absolutely delighted that pupils can now have face-to-face lessons from their teachers, and can learn alongside their peers. We have also been able to offer a co-curricular programme and extended day.

Reopening the School in the current environment has been challenging. We are working within constraints we have never had before, and there are bound to be teething problems. We have had to introduce completely new systems for teaching, boarding and the co-curriculum programme and, despite our best efforts, there are sure to be things we will need to change once the systems have been operating for a few days/weeks.

I would ask that you email [Concerns@gatton-park.org.uk](mailto:Concerns@gatton-park.org.uk) with any comments or suggestions about the way things are working for your child. We will do our best to respond and let you know what we are doing to address the issue. We are grateful for any feedback we receive.

I recently wrote to parents of Flexi Boarders about the roadworks near the School. The southbound carriageway of Reigate Hill from Junction 8 of the M25 will be closed from 7<sup>th</sup> September for 14 weeks. This means there will be no access to Gatton Bottom and there will be a big impact on the journeys to the School that usually take this route. Please refer to that letter for more information or visit Surrey's website [here](#).

During the summer I wrote to parents with full details of the measures we have put in place to keep children safe whilst at School. If you want to review this information, please go to the Covid-19 page on the School website.

<http://www.raa-school.co.uk/coronavirus.asp>

Over the coming weeks we will continue to review Government advice as it changes and hope that we can return to a more normal approach for teaching and boarding as soon as possible.

In the meantime, I hope your child enjoys being back at school. I am pleased pupils are once again able to benefit from being part of the Gatton community and can take advantage of the many opportunities we have to offer.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Dixon', written in a cursive style.

Mark Dixon  
Headmaster