



CHINTHURST SCHOOL
TRADITIONAL VALUES | MODERN TEACHING

20 February 2017

Dear Parents

Announcement of good news and an invitation to an important meeting on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm and Tuesday 21st February at 5.30pm.

I am writing with exciting news. The Chinthurst Governors have entered into a binding commitment, a formal long-term partnership with Reigate St Mary's Preparatory and Choir School (RSM) and Reigate Grammar School (RGS).

Under the new arrangements, Chinthurst School will be fully supported to retain and develop its current ethos and values on its current site, while becoming a key member of the RGS family of schools.

The three schools are an excellent fit in terms of ethos, achievement and ambition. We all subscribe to the view that education is about far more than academic achievement alone. Our pupils' lives are full of drama, music and sport and a host of other activities that stretch and inspire them. We seek to educate the whole child and set them on the path to fulfilled lives and happy adulthood.

There will be many questions about how this new partnership will work. To reassure you, Chinthurst remains with its identity and ethos that we all know and love. This partnership is about securing our future for the next 100 years and beyond. The landscape by which we operate has changed significantly; smaller prep schools increasingly need the resilience of being part of a larger entity. It is the role of the Board to ensure that Chinthurst can compete with the future landscape. This partnership enables us to do just that.

In order to tackle these new challenges a new Head of Chinthurst has been appointed. Miss Cathy Trundle, formerly RSM Deputy Head, has joined Chinthurst as Head teacher in succession to Mr Tim Button. Mr Button was offered a senior position leading the development of Chinthurst, but he has decided to step aside and take a much-earned break. I am so grateful to Tim for his service to Chinthurst over the last 32 years and in particular for his leadership of the school over the last 18 months. Tim has been integral to the turnaround of Chinthurst and we wish him well in his future endeavours. There is lots more to say about Tim and his contributions to school life and I will be writing again later in the week to share these and our plans to say a heartfelt thank you to Tim later on this term.

Tadworth Street, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5QZ
Tel: 01737 812011 | E: info@chinthurstschool.co.uk | www.chinthurstschool.co.uk

Reigate St Mary's, a prep school which joined the RGS family a decade ago, has more than doubled in size to allow significant financial investment and was rated Excellent in every category by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) last year (read the full RSM report [here](#)). At the same time, RGS itself was the first co-educational day school to be rated Exceptional by the ISI (click [here](#) for the full RGS report). Now that Chinthurst is part of the RGS family, the children will benefit in many ways, including the option of an early offer there if it is your school of choice. However, for those parents who wish their children to go to the many other great senior schools in the area, Chinthurst will continue to prepare them for 11 plus as we do now.

The schools' governors have given their whole-hearted support to the new partnership, which will enable Chinthurst children to continue to enjoy the education their parents chose for them, and it is good to know that we can draw on the experience and expertise of RSM and RGS as Chinthurst moves towards an exciting new future. Our parents can rest assured that Chinthurst will continue to be the happy, caring school it has always been.

Miss Trundle and I look forward to seeing you at the special open meeting tonight at 7:30pm here at Chinthurst or if you cannot make it, we will be available again on Tuesday at 5:30pm to answer all your questions. Childcare will be available on Tuesday night.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Hulme

Chair of Governors