

9 September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

### Change of school closure dates

I had hoped to be writing to you at this point, the beginning of the new school year, with good news about progress towards moving into our new school building. Unfortunately, the building contractors have missed some key deadlines, so the EFA (the government body that is funding the building) has told us that the new building will not be released to us until the October half-term break.

This is very frustrating for all of us at Reading Girls' School, not least because it means that we will have to unpack everything we packed up ready for the move and put our classrooms back together to teach in the "old" building for half a term. It also means that students will be denied access to the wonderful new building for several weeks.

We are, though, determined to make the best of a difficult situation, and have been busy making sure that the "old" building is safe and functional for lessons. We are not able to change the return date for all students, as we will not have sufficient furniture in the building until Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Year 11 students are now required to attend school all week, as we are moving the Inset days originally scheduled for this week until later in the term. Year 7 students should attend as planned on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

As we will be moving the equipment into the new building during the half-term break, we will be closed on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November for Inset days to give teachers time to set up their classrooms.

In summary, then:

- **Year 11 will be required to attend throughout the week of 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September**
- **Year 7 attend as originally planned from 16<sup>th</sup> September**
- **All other students attend from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September**
- **The school will be closed for Inset days on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

I do apologise for any inconvenience this might cause you, but I am afraid that matters are entirely out of my hands.

### GCSE results

GCSE results at Reading Girls' School in 2016 were very pleasing. Using the new national measure of the percentage of students who achieved A\*-C grades in both English and Maths, results were up by 6% on 2015, at 51%. In English, A\*-C results went up from 57% to 71%; in Maths, A\*-C rose from 53% to 56%. The percentage of students who achieved the EBacc is also up from 8% last year to 14% this year, and students made more progress than last year in both English and Maths.

These improvements are a real tribute to the students' and teachers' hard work throughout what was a difficult year, and are particularly impressive because results across the country fell in 2016.

We are proud of each and every student and their individual successes. Outstanding performers include Yashica Gupta and Kama Gunde, who both got 10A\*s. Other noteworthy performers include Ofuase Dirisu who got eight A\*s and three As, Sidra Karim with six A\*s and five As and Amasha Rajagura with five A\*s, an A and a B.

### **Reminder of uniform requirements**

Following our letter in July, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the changes to our school uniform requirements, which you can view at

<http://www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=81>.

Please do not hesitate to contact your daughter's Pastoral Leader if you have any queries.

Wishing you all the very best as we begin what promises to be a very successful year at Reading Girls' School.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Leo Gilbert'.

**Leo Gilbert**  
**Interim Headteacher**