

ROEDEAN JUNIOR SCHOOL

8 February 2010

Dear Parents,

As you know, Roedean Junior School has been part of the Roedean family for almost a year. I am writing to update you on several developments and forthcoming changes at the School.

All of us at Roedean are very proud of our Junior School. As you may have heard, *The Good Schools Guide* last week described it as a 'stunningly good prep school' with 'inspirational teaching'. As I write, our choir is preparing for their performance in the national finals of the Barnardo's Festival Competition at the Royal Festival Hall in London next month, the only choir in Sussex to reach this stage. Three of our Year 6 pupils have been offered Awards from the Senior School. It is the energy, vision and hard work of both staff and pupils which have brought about these successes and many others, and I am delighted to share them with you.

Over the past few months we have made a significant investment in the marketing of the Junior School to raise its profile in the community. This has seen a record level of enquiries, visits and applications. However, economically the position of the Junior School needs to be strengthened in order for it to grow and thrive in the longer term. The Junior School relies almost exclusively on pupil fee income to fund its activities and this is proving to be insufficient to cover the running costs of the Junior School. Indeed, in the current year, the School is projected to make a significant loss.

Since Roedean has been responsible for the Junior School, it has analysed the costs very carefully and compared them with similar quality schools in the area. The unavoidable conclusion is that the present fees are too low for a school offering this quality of teaching. Therefore, after very careful consideration, the Council of Roedean has decided to revise the fee structure for the academic year 2010-11.

The fees from September 2010 are outlined below:

Nursery – morning only	£1,050
Nursery - mornings and afternoons	£1,900
Reception	£2,100
Pre-Prep 1 (Year 1)	£2,450
Pre-Prep 2 (Year 2)	£2,450
Lower Prep 3 (Year 3)	£3,300
Lower Prep 4 (Year 4)	£3,300
Upper Prep 5 (Year 5)	£4,050
Transition (Year 6)	£4,050

Let me reassure you that if you currently hold a bursary, this will be honoured at the same percentage level next year, and for as long as your child is in the Junior School. There may also be some further means-tested financial assistance available.

Secondly, there are some structural changes to be made at the Junior School. If you are a parent of a child in Nursery or Reception you will be aware that the Government now requires all schools to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. To continue to build on the outstanding work of our team, therefore, we will be creating a new Early Years department from September 2010. This means combining the Reception and Nursery classes to enable ability-appropriate teaching. Also, while the details are yet to be finalised, classes in Years 1 and 2 may join for a range of subjects (they will still be taught individually for English and Maths). There will be no changes to the structure of Years 3 to 6, or to our cherished specialist language, dance, drama, sport and music teaching.

Finally, there will be a change to catering arrangements from September 2010. We anticipate that the senior school part of the site will be leased by then and the kitchen and dining hall we have been using this year will no longer be available. I know, though, how valued school meals are, so we are planning to provide a packed lunch. We are currently looking to see whether it is possible to supplement this with something hot.

I know that this letter may not answer all the questions you are likely to have. Consequently, the Roedean management team invite you to attend an open forum for current parents on either Tuesday 9 February or Wednesday 10 February, both at 4pm in the Hall at the Junior School. Please feel free to attend whichever session is more convenient; we will arrange childcare for you during this meeting.

We appreciate that these developments are significant, but please be assured that we have the best interests of the Junior School and our pupils firmly in mind. Roedean continues to be fully committed to an excellent Junior School, on a solid financial footing, where the pupil experience is second to none.

Yours sincerely

Mr Huw May
Headmaster