

September 19, 2019
Keio University

**Former headmaster of prestigious public school in the UK
appointed president of
Keio Academy of New York (senior high school)
—Commencement of reforms for further development—**

On August 1, 2019, Dr. Ralph Townsend, a former headmaster of a prestigious public school in the United Kingdom, was appointed as president of the Keio Academy of New York (senior high school; hereinafter “New York Academy”).

The New York Academy will seize on Dr. Townsend’s appointment as president to further advance initiatives to develop the academy into a school conforming to the highest global standards modelled on the best boarding schools in United Kingdom and the United States, while upholding its philosophy centered on bi-lingual and bi-cultural education.

1. About the New York Academy (senior high school)

The New York Academy is one of the affiliated schools of Keio University, and was opened in Purchase, New York State (USA) in 1990. The New York Academy is a senior high school that offers a four-year program of education from grade 9 (third year of junior high school) through to grade 12 (third year of senior high school). The New York Academy is an educational organization that has been simultaneously accredited as a private secondary school by the New York State Education Department Board of Regents, and designated as an “overseas educational institution” with a curriculum equivalent to that of a senior high school by the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

2. Background to appointment and planned reforms

Keio University situates the New York Academy as an important hub for the promotion of international cooperation within Keio University as a whole, and since 2017, has undertaken a review aimed at further advances at the school. Dr. Townsend, who served many years as the headmaster of the prestigious public school Winchester College in the UK, was welcomed on to the Board of Trustees of the New York Academy from 2018, after which earnest discussions informed by his considerable insight and proposals were held by the board. As a result of repeated consultations with local staff and various studies in which Dr. Townsend played a central role, a plan of reforms was compiled to evolve the academy into a school conforming to the highest global standards, modelled on the best boarding schools in UK and the USA, and the decision to appoint Dr. Townsend as president was finalized.

Against this backdrop, the New York Academy will hereafter successively implement reforms such as detailed below for entrants in September 2020 onward (note that it will be necessary to revise the tuition fees to realize these objectives).

- (1) Implementation of entrance examinations that are not premised on advanced proficiency in the Japanese language at the time of admission
- (2) Realization of education that is more suited to the ideal of boarding schools through the integration of boarding and academic development.
- (3) Additional improvement of educational capacities through the recruitment of top-level teaching staff.

3. Excerpts from the Inaugural Address of President Townsend (2019 entrance ceremony)



“I have been looking forward to this day for a long time. Welcome, new students, to Keio Academy of New York. The motto of Keio University and the School is *Calamus Gladio Fortior*: translated from the Latin that means *The Pen is Mightier than the Sword*. The Founder of Keio University, Yukichi Fukuzawa, chose that motto because he believed that we discover the best way to live together in peaceful communities in which learning has the priority: intelligent learning and analysis is more powerful than physical strength; brain is stronger than brawn; the mind governs the body. Today, in 2019, we are carrying on his work and vision. Some people have told me they think I look like Harry Potter. Let the new era of Keio Academy of New York be full of magic.”

[Profile of President Ralph Townsend]

Chairman Cothill Trust, 2016–

Director of Winton Consulting Ltd, 2017–

Headmaster of Winchester College, UK, 2005–2016

Headmaster of Oundle School, UK, 1999–2005

Headmaster of Sydney Grammar School, Australia, 1989–1999

Assistant Master, Eton College, UK, 1985–1989

Junior Research Fellow, Tutor and Dean of Degrees, Lincoln College, University of Oxford, UK, 1982–1985

Senior Scholar, Keble College, University of Oxford, UK, 1978–1981, DPhil

University of Kent at Canterbury, 1975, MA

University of Western Australia Commonwealth Scholar, BA

(Reference) Keio Academy of New York (senior high school) website

<https://www.keio.edu/>



*This news release has been sent to the MEXT Press Club and the city news and education sections of other media outlets.

Contact Information:

Keio University Office of Communications and Public Relations (Ms.Yasunobe)

Tel: +81-3-5427-1541 Fax: +81-3-5441-7640 E-mail: m-pr@adst.keio.ac.jp
<https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/>