Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have found it helpful to receive the daily updates from the government around how we should be responding to the coronavirus situation as it unfolds across the country. I am sure that you can appreciate that it is very difficult to predict what will happen but I would like to reassure you that we are planning for future events – whatever they may be – and will continue to keep in contact with you to provide updates.

**Take advice**
The current advice, as you are aware, is to take steps to avoid the spread of the virus and to use the NHS 111 line for specific advice around symptoms and self-isolation.

**Keep us informed**
Please make sure that you let us know if you are advised to self-isolate, or to keep your child(ren) away from school, so that we can record their absence in the correct way.

**Preventing the spread**
In school, we are checking soap dispensers in the washrooms several times a day and have put posters around the school emphasising the importance of good hand hygiene. Our cleaning team continue to maintain high standards of cleanliness throughout the school day. We have a day cleaner on each site and they, in addition to the full cleaning team who are in school every afternoon, have new work patterns that include the regular disinfection of bannisters, light switches, door handles etc.

**Planning ahead**
The staff are working to prepare for an enforced school closure. If this is the case, we will be able to provide work for the students on our Show My Homework platform, which also allows them to contact their teachers with questions. More information around how we will use this will follow as necessary.

**Keeping up to date**
Please could you make sure that we have up to date contact details for you so that we can communicate directly with you if the school is closed. Please email info@thejohnroanschool.org.uk if you need to make any changes to email or telephone contact details. We will use email (via the Parent Pay system) to contact parents, and will keep information up to date on the website.

All future information relating to CV19 will be posted on our website – http://www.thejohnroanschool.org.uk/1184/coronavirus-covid-19-latest-news
Working at home

In the event of a school closure, we will continue to provide work for the students. Subject teachers will set work and we expect the students to follow their school timetable each day as far as is possible. Today we are encouraging students to take their books home and to empty their lockers.

Please could you ensure that your child is able to access their Show My Homework account from home and let us know if they do not have access to a computer at home. Please could you also think about how you will arrange a workspace for your child(ren) at home. They will need somewhere quiet to work. If schools are closed, it is highly likely that libraries will also be closed and so they will need to have a good space at home in which to study. This is especially important, of course, for the exam groups.

Trips and visits

We are reviewing all of our planned trips and visits on a case by case basis. We will keep you informed and updated as decisions are made.

Examinations

The current guidance is that exams will take place as planned. We will take a lead on this from the government and Ofqual. Students should continue to prepare for their exams and make full use of any time at home to study. Staff will set work via Show My Homework and provide access to past exam papers, revision websites and other useful tools for the students. Whilst this is an unwelcome additional pressure on students who are already anxious about their exams, it is unavoidable at the moment and we are doing all we can to reassure and support the students.

Staff absence

It is possible that we will experience a higher than usual level of staff absence. As far as is possible, we will seek to ensure that lessons are covered by subject specialists, but you will understand that this is not always possible.

Reassurance

The situation is changing rapidly and is unsettling for everyone. In particular, children and young people will be worried and will be picking up stories from the media and social media that may well increase their anxieties. Together, we all need to work to keep as calm as possible and steer young people away from fake news, asking them to focus on facts and reliable sources of information. It is also important that we do not pass our stresses and concerns on to the students.
The support of our parents/carers to date has been very strong. Thank you for this. As a whole community we are all working together to plan for an uncertain few weeks ahead. I will continue to keep you informed – via email and the website – and we will all make sure that teaching and learning continues throughout any changed circumstances.

Thank you also to those of you who have kept me informed of your own circumstances and have stayed calm throughout. It is so important for us all to focus on the facts and to ensure that our plans are robust and will enable us to do our very best to protect our families and the whole community at this time.

Year 12 admissions meetings

It has been lovely this week to meet so many students and their families through the Year 12 admissions meetings. These opportunities to discuss course choices, predicted grades and the exciting opportunity that joining our Sixth Form presents, are always ones that I enjoy.

Pride Day

On Tuesday this week we had PRIDE Day 4. Students were, as ever, fully occupied in a range of exciting activities – from a careers day for Year 10 to a charity focus with Year 9, from Year 12 university visits to Year 7 involved in a full day of forensic investigations and Science based learning. Across both sites there was a wide range of activity and it was lovely to witness learning in a different way.

Attendance

Week 2nd–6th March 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR GROUPS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>94%</td>
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<td>94%</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yours faithfully

Cath Smith
Executive Headteacher
British Science Week

Thank you to Ms Williams, Mrs Allen, Mrs Gordon (parent) and Ms Frimpong for the planning and preparation to engage students in Science week. As part of this week, Years 9, 10 and 11 girls will be receiving a Science Technology, Mathematics and Engineering (STEM) Talk, focused on encouraging more girls into STEM careers. With thanks to Berkeley Homes sponsorship, there will be more projects over the coming months that will focus on girls into STEM Careers - STEMETTES. If your daughter would like to participate, please encourage her to speak with Ms Williams and Mrs Frimpong.

Uniform

A reminder to ensure students always have a spare pair of shoes at home. We are very understanding that shoes do not always last the test of time with young people, however wearing trainers as a substitute for school shoes will not be accepted.

2020 Challenge

The girls' only lunchtime Zumba sessions are continuing to be very popular. Do encourage your daughter to join in as part of her dedication to improving her health and to have a bit of fun on a Friday!

Year 8 Parent Evening

A reminder that we look forward to welcoming everyone to Maze Hill to discuss your child's progress in their subjects on Wednesday, 1st April 2020.

Parent Voice

If you would like to be part of a parent voice group to discuss what is working well for your child's learning and ideas for how we can help your child learn even better, please do email SLTadmin@thejohnroanschool.org.uk, and indicate your preferred times of the day to meet.

Many thanks,

Josephine Okokon
Associate Headteacher
Maze Hill Lead
Quick Links—News to Share Page

News from the JRSA (PTA) – Please see news here. Website click here.

News from the Heads of Year
For Year 7 click here
For Year 8 click here
For Year 9 click here
For Year 10 click here
For Year 11 click here
For Sixth Form click here

Library News can be found here

Music News can be found here

Dates for the Diary click here

Website updates: Coronavirus click –
Grand Raffle - we are collecting for our grand raffle draw which will take place after half term. If you can donate anything to the raffle that would be really helpful. Is there anything you can donate from your business, can you talk to your local restaurants to see if they could offer a meal for 2? Have a think if you can help and donate to the raffle. We can supply you with an official letter if this helps, please do let us know.

This term we are supporting a couple of Parent and Information Evenings. We always rely on the same volunteers to make the teas and coffees, if you can spare any time, even if its 30 minutes to help with teas and coffees, we would really appreciate it.

All the best,
Eve Daniels—Co Chair of the JRSA
## Dates for the Diary — Spring Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>End Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 Mar</td>
<td>Instrumental Concert</td>
<td>Maze Hill Hall</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>SEN Parent Information Evening</td>
<td>Maze Hill Hall</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Mar</td>
<td>Admissions Meetings (Year 6)</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
<td>4.00pm</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Mar</td>
<td>Year 6/7 Friendship Afternoon</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
<td>4.00pm</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Mar</td>
<td>Year 11 Passport for Success Evening</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Apr</td>
<td>Year 8 Parent Evening</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Apr</td>
<td>Jack Petchey Regional Final</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
<td>6.25pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Apr</td>
<td>Staff INSET Day—school closed to students</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–17 Apr</td>
<td>Easter Holidays—school closed</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Again Year 7 have had an excellent week.

Due to PRIDE Day this week, we had no assembly or ‘Jump to the Front’ passes. Next week we will be handing out 12 passes to those students who have attended school every day since half term.

PRIDE Day 4

On Tuesday we had our PRIDE Day 4. What a fun filled, exciting and competitive day. Students explored the crime scene, tested blood samples, looked for DNA sites and identified the cause of death and killer! They worked in teams to solve the crime and some students left with medals and prizes. ‘Thinkers in Education’ commented on students excellent behaviour, resilience and attitude to learning - as the tasks were not easy.

Zumba

Our lunchtime Bollywood Zumba sessions continue to have a fantastic turnout and this week students were joined by some Sixth Form girls. Although the Sixth Form students were very enthusiastic, Year 7 picked up the choreography very quickly and there were many volunteers to dance on the stage.

Science Week

The Science Department planned numerous activities for the school to celebrate Science week, included was a visit by MACE. A group of Year 7 students explored building, using Lego to build their designs.

Safety

Please remind your child to take care when walking to and from school. We have had reports of students walking home in groups with some students walking on the road. This is obviously dangerous for both students and drivers. Please remind them to walk on the pavement.
We had a fantastic PRIDE Day at London Zoo on Tuesday this week celebrating Science week. The weather was on our side and we managed to see almost all of the animals. The students were excellent and their behaviour was outstanding, representing the school beautifully. It was fantastic to be able to take all of the Year 8’s to the same location, and a huge thank you goes out to all of the Year 8 Form Tutors and support staff that came with us to make the day such a success. I finished the day reaching nearly 20,000 steps, so a lot of walking was completed too!

The deadline for showing an interest in this year’s Braithwaite trip is Friday next week. I have already had 15 forms returned, but I would hope to get a lot more before the deadline next Friday, 20th March. I look forward to receiving these next week.

Finally the Year 8’s Parent Evening will be on Wednesday, 1st April. I will be sending home information next week in a letter. It will explain the times and how students will book appointments through their teachers in their lessons. Please have a conversation with your son/daughter and work out the best time for your appointments to start from.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.

On Tuesday, we had a very productive PRIDE Day based on Active Citizenship. We were looking into various charities, ranging from Sports Relief to Don McMath, as well as charities focused on Multiple Sclerosis. I was very impressed by the maturity and thoughtfulness of our Year 9s during these sessions. We ended our day by competing in sports events which was our way to raise some money towards our chosen charities.

I was very impressed by one particular tutor group who researched about Multiple Sclerosis and have had very productive conversations about how they can raise money for this chosen charity.

This is our last opportunity to promote the Braithwaite trip, as the final permission slips must be handed in by Monday, 16th March. I am aiming to inform you of the Braithwaite list in our next weekly newsletter.

I am very aware there is a lot of worry and anxiety about the Coronavirus. Please be assured our school and our Headteacher is doing their utmost to keep us all safe in school and we are receiving daily updates from Public Health England. Please send your child into school as normal if they are well and do not exhibit any symptoms, as otherwise they will be marked absent.

Thanks as always for your continued support and I wish you a safe weekend.
Mid-year assessments and reports - students will be given their reports this week to take home to parents. A text message will be sent to parents to inform them when their child has been given their report.

Reminder:
Oxygen Free Jumping at The O2 Arena (31st March) - Please see the attached letter. Deadline 19th March. Reply slips and payment will not be accepted after this date.

Work Experience:
It is vital that parental consent forms are returned to Ms Proctor as soon as possible. Students also need to contact their employers to arrange an interview and visit to the placement. This must be done out of school time however. I am pleased to announce that all Year 10 students have work experience placements.
Our ref: TS/ep/W/OXYGENFREEJUMPING

26th February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 - Trip to ‘Oxygen’ Free Jumping Park at the O2

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in attending the end of term trip to ‘Oxygen’ Free Jumping Park at the O2 arena on Tuesday 31st March.

Trip information:
• Cost - £11.50 (variable cost for Pupil Premium students). This includes entry to the park and socks.
• Students must bring a change of clothes with them to school. Students will get changed immediately after school and then meet on the foyer steps at 3.30pm. Sensible clothing must be worn i.e. long trousers.
• Students will then be escorted down Vanbrugh Hill (walking) and catch a public bus to the O2 Arena.
• Session time – 5.00-6.00pm.
• Students will be dismissed from the O2. Staff will be returning to school however and will escort any students who wish to return to Westcombe Park.

This trip has been partly funded by The John Roan School Association (PTA) and therefore the cost of the trip has been reduced to allow all students to attend if they wish.

If you would like your son/daughter to attend this trip, please complete the attached slip and return it to Ms Sumner (only) and pay the full amount on Parent Pay no later than Thursday 19th March. Payments after this date will not be accepted and your child will not be able to attend.

Yours faithfully

Tracey Sumner
Head of Year 10

FAO: Ms Sumner – to be returned by Thursday 19th March

I give permission for my child __________________________ to attend the ‘Oxygen’ Free Jumping trip on Tuesday 31st March. I have read and understood the conditions above.

Parent/Carer Signature: ________________________________________________________________

Medical Conditions/Medication Required: ___________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Details: 1. _________________________________ 2. _______________________________
I’m sure that we are all very concerned with the recent news but rest assured that contingency plans are afoot and the school is making every possible preparation in case the worst happens. Tutors have been busy this week checking your child has the means to access work outside of school, should the need arise. I have also sent home a contact information form that I would appreciate you completing and returning if we currently do not have a valid mobile number or email address for you.

Passport for Success: This evening is currently planned for Tuesday, 31\textsuperscript{st} March from 5:30–6:30 arriving at 5 ideally. More details will follow in a letter but I wanted to bring this to your attention for you to add to your diary.

Reminder: The John Roan School Class of 2020 Yearbook is on ParentPay, ready to purchase at the fantastic price of £16. Please could you get your orders in early. Thank you again for the photos of your children as babies but I’d still like some more for our double spread of “guess the baby”. It is not too late to provide baby pictures for the yearbook (a digital copy is preferred to a hard copy). Please keep these coming!

We start taking photos for the yearbook next week, so please refer to your ParentPay account for the scheduled time your child will be having their tutor group photo taken.

The whole year group photo will now take place on Thursday, 19\textsuperscript{th} March during registration.

Reminder: Year 11 Prom is on Thursday, 18\textsuperscript{th} June – Though a while away, please could you ensure that the consent form for the prom is returned to me as soon as possible. Payment can now be made via ParentPay for the prom. Letters were sent this week with permission.

Attendance – Attendance has decreased significantly this week and it’s a bit of a concern with so little time left prior to the exams. With so little time left until the exams, please may I ask that you endeavour to, as I’m sure that you already do, ensure that appointments are made outside the school day so that it does not impact on their learning time at school.

Revision – You should have received an online revision timetable from me this week via ParentPay. Please may I ask for your assistance in ensuring that your child is revising and revising seriously using the effective revision techniques already outlined in previous entries and not just reading, which is the least effective form of revision.

Interventions – Please support us with helping your child by reminding them to attend their intervention classes. The attendance to intervention classes has been slipping of late, particularly for those students who really would benefit from attending and still are not doing so.

Homework – Thank you for your support with this issue but there has been a considerable number of students issued with detentions this week for non-completion of homework! Your child is hindering their chances of success in their GCSE exams by not completing homework. Your support would be much appreciated.

Finally, I have (foolishly) decided to (try to) run the London Marathon again this year. I’ll be honest and say that training has not gone as well as last year due to the weather not being great and being extremely tired from very long days at work this year (that’s my excuse for not finding that extra gear). All money raised will go back to the school so I would really appreciate it if you would be kind enough to sponsor us for the race as its for students with ASD.

Further details can be found on this link; [https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/john-roan-trips](https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/john-roan-trips)

Summer exams – There are currently 9 weeks to the commencement of the summer exams on Monday, 11\textsuperscript{th} May (only 7 school weeks). Let’s make every day count!

Remember that there are “no excuses, no shortcuts and no limits on what they can achieve, if they are prepared to work hard enough”

We are nearly there and this half term will be the one that makes the difference.
Year 12 enjoyed visits to two different universities this week, UCL and University of Cambridge. Students visiting Cambridge explored life as a student and met a student who took them on a tour of Gonville and Caius College, where they were fortunate to see Stephen Hawkings' offices and the tributes to Francis Crick, one of the co-discoverers of the structure of DNA, who made the discovery at the college. Students then explored the questions 'Are sports people who undertake extreme sports heros or fools?'. This led to a lot of discussion about what makes a hero and whether extreme adventures are of benefit to society. The purpose of the task was to give an example of the type a question asked at a university admissions interview.

Students who went to UCL also explored life as a student and were treated to lectures that undergraduates experience, along with a tour of the university. Students were given advice on writing personal statements and why they should aim high in their search for a university.

On Monday during PSHE time, we welcomed an admissions tutor from the University of Newcastle. Students were put in teams, each representing a different country with different resources, under different and changing economics conditions and countries had to trade resources with each other. Through this students explored the world of business, politics, economics and diplomacy. A fun and informative afternoon was had by all.

Year 13 are now deep into their revision. On Monday we spoke about revision techniques and making environments suitable for good revision. Students were encouraged to find quiet places free form distractions so that they can focus on their revision. Any student wanting support can approach their subject teachers or for more general revision help students can see Mr Martin the Sixth Form Learning Mentor for regular sessions or one off help with, for example, making a revision timetable or exploring revision techniques.

Year 12's deadline for finding their work experience is rapidly approaching. The deadline is **31st March**. This is to enable Greenwich to carry out all the necessary checks before approving the placement. When students have found a placement, **they must collect an own find form** from Miss McWilliams in the Sixth Form Office.
Readers for Rectory Court

Our Readers for Rectory Court project has now launched but we are always looking for new students who would like to join us. It’s a wonderful opportunity to sit, chat and read with someone new and interesting. The residents have many amazing stories about their lives, such as serving as film advisors on Hollywood films such as Dunkirk.

If students would like to become a Reader for Rectory Court, they just need to come and speak to the Librarian.

Rename Rectory Court Competition

Rectory Court in Blackheath needs you to come up with three amazing names for each of its floors. You must give a reason for the name that you have given.

The residents will be judging and choosing the new names and there will be prizes! Please contact the Libraries for further details. Rectory Court would like entries from parents, staff and students.

1677 Challenge

To celebrate National Story Month in May, The John Roan School Libraries are launching the 1677 Challenge. We would like to get 1677 (the year the school was founded) book recommendations from students, staff, parents and the local community. Please complete the short survey below with your book recommendations.

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PGFCDP9

Thank you in advance, Jenny

The John Roan Word of the Week

Word: Incognito

Definition:
Without revealing one’s identity.

Example sentence: “The title is now sometimes used by the Royal Family of the Netherlands when travelling incognito.”.

Synonyms: nameless, faceless, anonymous

The Weekly Challenge: Use the adjective, incognito, as many times as possible throughout the week and you could receive PRIDE points every time! This can be verbally or in your written work.
High School Musical
A reminder that the first full cast rehearsal for the Summer production of ‘High School Musical’ will be this Monday, 16th March at 3:00pm in Maze Hill Hall. Everyone who auditioned should attend the rehearsal (not just those on the cast list).

Instrumental Concert
We have our second informal instrumental concert of the year taking place this Tuesday, 17th March from 3:30 – 4:30pm in Maze Hill Hall. The concert will display a range of year groups, instruments/voices and abilities. Please do come along to watch and support the students, many of whom will be performing in front of an audience for the first time. The concert is free of charge.

There will be no orchestra on Tuesday, owing to the Instrumental Concert.

Instrumental/Vocal Practice
In order for your son/daughter to make progress on their chosen instrument/voice, it is important that they get into a routine of practising every week. I would recommend the following practice timings (these are depending on age/experience):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7/8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
<th>Year 11</th>
<th>Post 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginner</td>
<td>1/2 years</td>
<td>2/3 years</td>
<td>3/4 years</td>
<td>Over 4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes four times a week</td>
<td>25 minutes four times a week</td>
<td>30 minutes four times a week</td>
<td>40 minutes four times a week</td>
<td>1 hour four times a week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For some useful practice tips please click on the link below –


Thank you,

Mr Wright
Head of Music